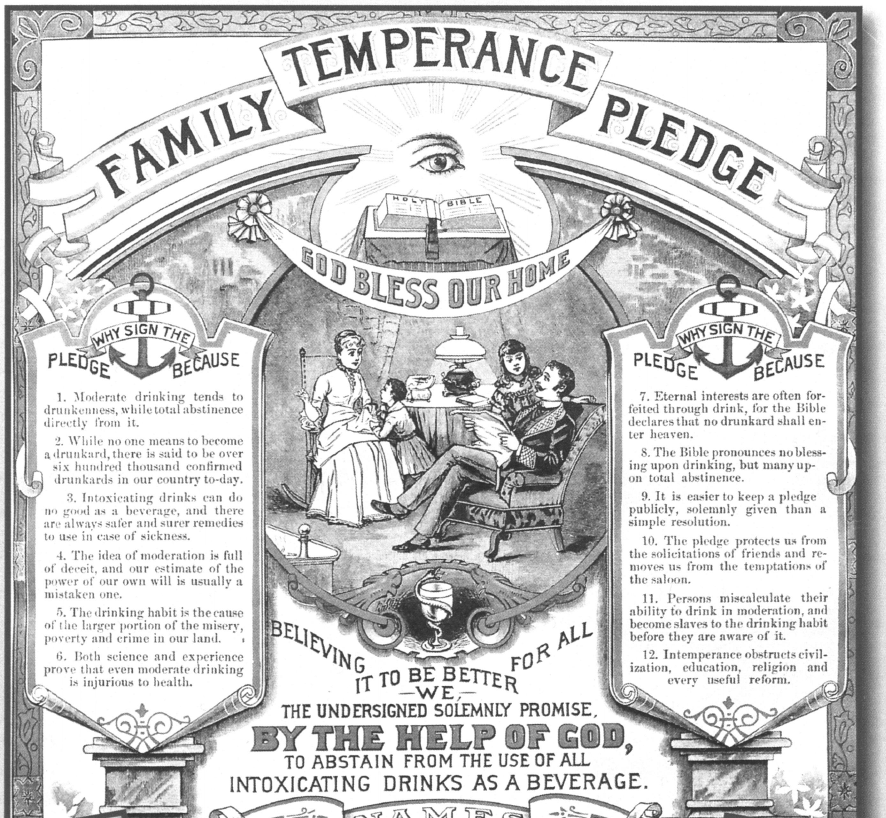
Salisbury University
Nabb Research Center
Since 1982
for Delmarva History and Culture
We're History...Without You!

# Shoreline

Vol. 17 • December 2010

For the Members of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University



FAMILY TEMPERANCE PLEDGE

GOD BLESS OUR HOME

WHY SIGN THE PLEDGE BECAUSE

1. Moderate drinking tends to drunkenness, while total abstinence directly from it.

2. While no one means to become a drunkard, there is said to be over six hundred thousand confirmed drunkards in our country to-day.

3. Intoxicating drinks can do no good as a beverage, and there are always safer and surer remedies to use in case of sickness.

4. The idea of moderation is full of deceit, and our estimate of the power of our own will is usually a mistaken one.

5. The drinking habit is the cause of the larger portion of the misery, poverty and crime in our land.

6. Both science and experience prove that even moderate drinking is injurious to health.

WHY SIGN THE PLEDGE BECAUSE

7. Eternal interests are often forfeited through drink, for the Bible declares that no drunkard shall enter heaven.

8. The Bible pronounces no blessing upon drinking, but many upon total abstinence.

9. It is easier to keep a pledge publicly, solemnly given than a simple resolution.

10. The pledge protects us from the solicitations of friends and removes us from the temptations of the saloon.

11. Persons miscalculate their ability to drink in moderation, and become slaves to the drinking habit before they are aware of it.

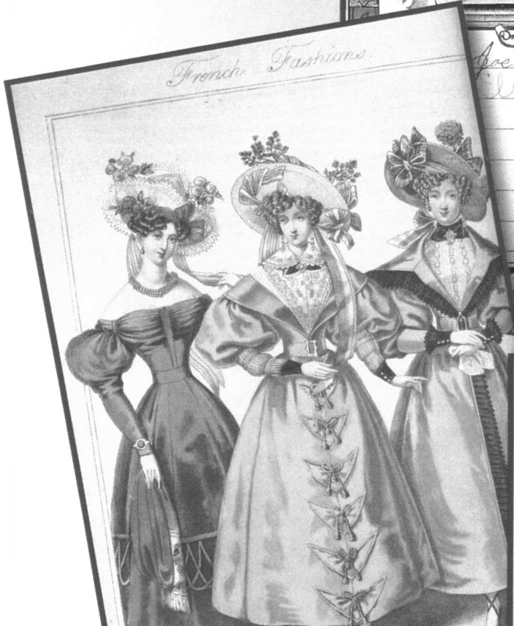
12. Intemperance obstructs civilization, education, religion and every useful reform.

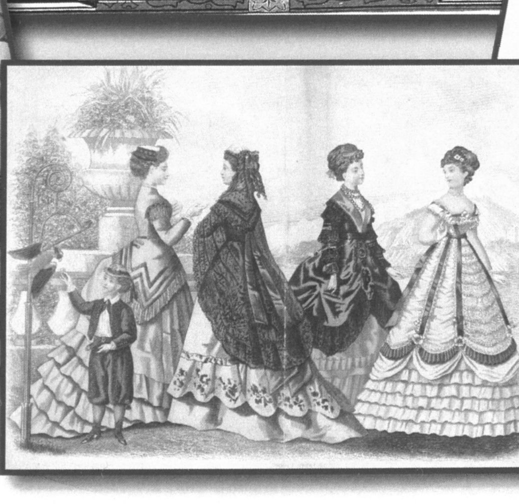
BELIEVING IT TO BE BETTER FOR ALL
—WE,—
THE UNDERSIGNED SOLEMNLY PROMISE,
**BY THE HELP OF GOD,**
TO ABSTAIN FROM THE USE OF ALL
INTOXICATING DRINKS AS A BEVERAGE.

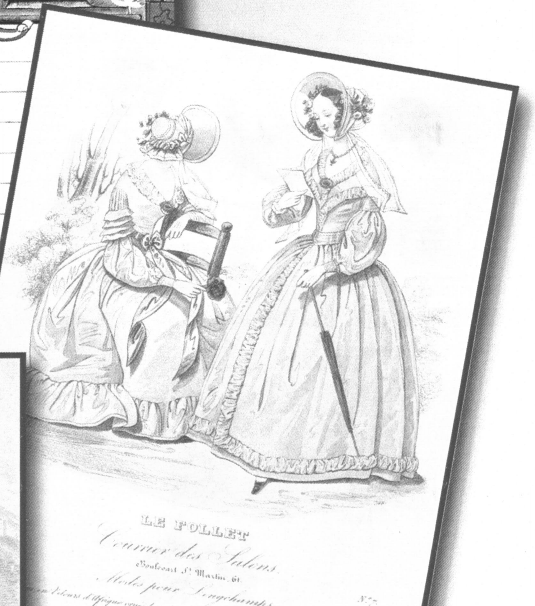
NAMES

Josephine C. Smith
Elsie L. Smith

BLESS ALL WHO WALK BEFORE HIM IN A PE







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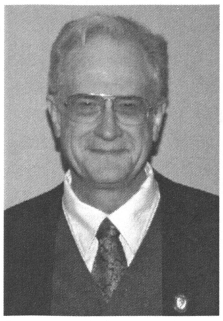
# *In a Word*

By Dr. G. Ray Thompson



Change is in the air. Since our last *Shoreline*, we've seen a flurry of activities on the "historical" front here on the Eastern Shore. Most recently, November 20 marked the premiere in Cambridge of *The Lost River*, the previously untold story of Anna Ella Carroll, an Eastern Shore resident whose significant contributions during the Civil War have at last been recognized. Earlier this fall, the mid-18th century Radcliffe House on Sinepuxent Bay was opened to the public in another event showcasing the historical significance of our own local area. In October, local architect Jack Graham was recognized for his extraordinary contributions to historic preservation with an award from Preservation Maryland.

At the Nabb Center, we've also seen some major changes; we have been successful in our quest to hire an outreach coordinator. Damika Baker, an Eastern Shorewoman and graduate of the University of Maryland College Park, is excited about working with our programming and outreach activities. We have tried conscientiously to make our "lean machine" here at Nabb even leaner by joining together with Blackwell Library staff. Wherever possible, Blackwell Library staff will assist us in our cataloging, binding and Web site activities. (Thanks Dean Alice Bahr for making this joint effort possible!) Pat Taylor, our volunteer coordinator, who has for years been the backbone of all our many volunteer activities will continue to head up answering research requests as she has done with such grace for more years than I can remember. Our volunteers continue to grow in numbers. Volunteers come in a variety of ages, colors, genders and interests. We have a cadre of wonderful docents who are here to assist us in keeping our galleries open to the public. Some volunteers assist patrons doing research, while others write articles for or help with editing of our newsletters or journals. Yet others have curated or assisted in curating Nabb exhibits. Still others help us with daily clerical activities—which otherwise would not get done so expeditiously.

Our educational mission is always front and center as we work closely with departments, faculty and students on campus in preparing students for future jobs or for advanced degree work. This fall, in addition to the many classes that regularly utilize the Nabb for exercises and classes, we are supervising five interns, two in communications arts and one each in history, geography and English. We keep each of them busy with projects which relate directly to their majors and will assist them in developing enhanced critical thinking, speaking and writing skills. In addition to students who are doing academic credit internships, we also have a number of student volunteers who are drafting articles based on historic materials in our collections. Community volunteers continue to help with scanning projects and other appropriate jobs. Our two graduate students continue to do archival work, while at the same time they are engaged in doing scholarly research.

Our own staff continues a frenetic pace of activity as we attempt to respond to faculty, student and community (both local and national) audiences who are making Nabb a "go-to" center to do research. Daily, we

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## Submissions

The Nabb Research Center is always interested in articles on the history, culture or heritage of the Delmarva region. If you or anyone you know is interested in writing for *Shoreline*, please send material, proposals, suggestions or comments to the attention of the "Newsletter Editor" as follows:

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Or by e-mail to rcdhac@salisbury.edu. Please include the words "Newsletter Editor" in the subject line.

## *Hours & Closings*

READING ROOM HOURS:
Monday: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

GALLERY HOURS:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 1-4 p.m.
or by appointment (please call 410-543-6312).

CLOSINGS:
The Nabb Research Center will be closed December 18-January 2; January 17; March 19-27

# Shoreline

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This issue and back issues of *Shoreline* may be purchased for $15 each. Please contact us at 410-543-6312 or by e-mail at rcdhac@salisbury.edu for details.

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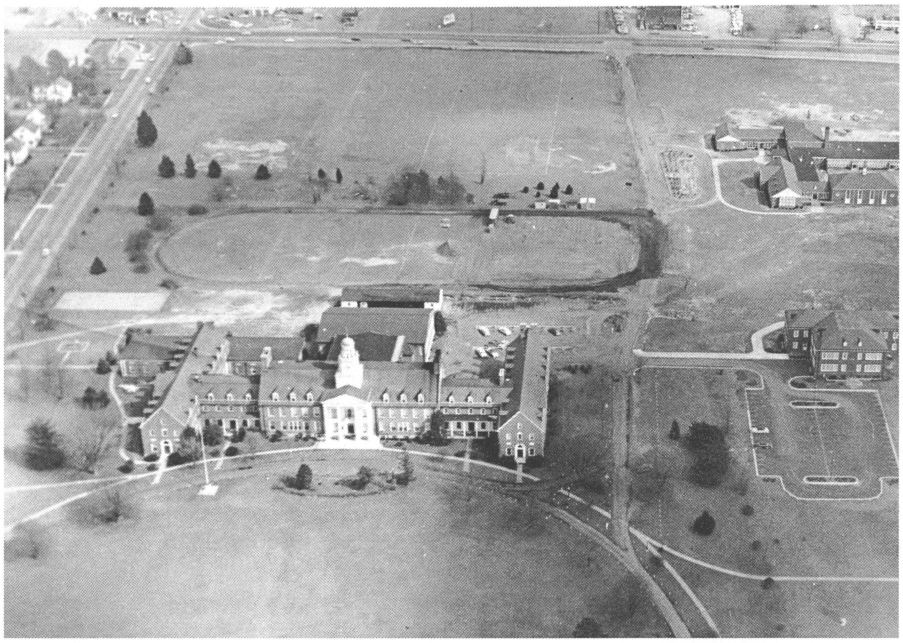
**About the Front Cover:**
The women's fashions come from various ladies' fashion magazines from the Josiah Bayly Collection. A Temperance page such as this one from the Smith family Bible would have been featured in many 19th century homes in Delmarva.

# *85 Years of Tennis in Salisbury*

By W. Newton Jackson III



*Aerial view of Maryland State Teachers College c. 1958 (Salisbury University) showing tennis courts. Courtesy Salisbury University Archives.*

Tennis and Salisbury have had a special relationship, although it was slow in developing because tennis was not a popular sport in small-town America 85 years ago or even 50 years ago. The first tennis courts were built in Salisbury in the 1920s in at least six different locales, but the available historical records do not permit a precise determination of which court was built first.

In 1925, the Maryland State Normal School opened its doors on Camden Avenue about a mile south of town, and within five years two clay tennis courts had been built. Photographs taken in 1930 show them situated to the immediate east of Holloway Hall just south of College Avenue, placed end-to-end and running in a north-south direction. Local citizens played matches there in 1932 to commemorate the Salisbury Bicentennial. Their names are worthy of mention: Albert G. Allen, W. Lee Allen, James L. Benjamin, Franklin Cooper, Hardy Richardson, Milton Severance and Miller White. Some of them were still playing tennis as late as the 1970s.

Five private courts were built in the 1920s. The aforesaid Allen brothers laid down a cement court on the southwest corner of Camden Avenue and Dogwood Drive. Further north on Camden Avenue, William B. Tilghman Jr. built a clay court on the west side of the street across from the Hazel Avenue intersection. It backed up to Oak Hill Avenue. On the east side of Riverside Drive near a sharp curve overlooking the Wicomico River, Ernest C. Turner constructed a clay court for his twin daughters Virginia and Evelyn. Thomas H. Mitchell lived on the north side of East Isabella Street, just east of North Division Street, and operated a brickyard further down the street. With clay readily accessible, he built a clay court behind his house around 1922. (The court actually fronted on the south side of Elizabeth Street.) Not too far away, Nathaniel R. Wootten had a clay court on the southwest corner of Poplar Hill Avenue and East William Street. None of these courts exist today.

One mystery involves a putative tennis court existing 70 or so years ago next to the south prong of the Wicomico River where Peninsula Regional Medical Center (PRMC) is currently located. After an exhaustive review of their archive of photographs, however, PRMC officials are unable to confirm its existence. Similarly, the Salisbury Department of Public Works, following a review of old city maps and site plans along the river from Circle Avenue to South Division Street, cannot establish the existence of such a structure. Interviews with retired physicians, hospital personnel, city officials and older Salisburians do not support this contention. The best evidence suggests that there never was a court in that area, but nonetheless it is a possibility. Perhaps, the ghosts of Homer White, George Burnett, Fred Messick, Bob Truitt and Rivers Hanson still roam there.

Before World War II, some of the aforementioned tennis players, plus Todd Grier who is alive today, played team matches against Cambridge, Princess Anne and Accomac, Virginia.

In the 1940s, the City of Salisbury constructed four asphalt courts in the City Park. By the 1960s, there were two more courts at the park plus the courts of Canal Park Swim Club (later Canal Woods), Green Hill Yacht and Country Club, the various high schools, and a smattering of privately owned courts, mostly in south Salisbury.

Immediately after World War II, there was a small contingent of men and women playing actively in the City Park. Some of the men from time to time traveled to the Chincoteague Naval Air Station (now the Wallops Island NASA facility) and to the Cambridge Country Club for team matches. To most Salisburians, however, tennis was the distant relative who visited in spring and left with the first hint of autumn chill. No one played indoors. This was the era of all-white tennis attire, wooden rackets kept in screw-down presses and white balls packaged in cylindrical steel cans that had to be opened with sardine-can keys. Salisbury drifted in the horse latitudes of tennis for the first six decades of the 20th century. The arrival of a clothier, eager to escape the day-to-day pressures of life in New York City, was to change all that.

In 1954, William F. Riordan bought The Fashion Shop on West Main Street and moved into a house on Manor Drive with his wife Terry and two small children. It soon became obvious that his main interest was tennis, rather than women's apparel, when he became a semi-permanent fixture at the City Park courts, with the trunk of his car full of Dunlop rackets, balls and shoes, which he willingly gave to any kid interested in swatting the ball. During his first winters in Salisbury, he commandeered the National Guard Armory on South Division Street (located at the present site of the Wicomico County Public Library) on Saturday afternoons and gave tennis instruction to boys who were in the off-seasons of Little League baseball and Red Shield football. He also developed a tennis team at Wicomico Senior High School. In no time, he was running junior tennis tournaments in the City Park, attracting players from all over the Middle Atlantic and Northeastern United States.

In the early 1960s, he made use of the newly constructed Wicomico Youth and Civic Center to attract nationally and internationally ranked players for tournament play. In 1963, he convinced the U.S. Lawn Tennis Association (as it was then called) to move the Men's National Indoors from the Seventh Regiment Armory in New York City to Salisbury. The move was supposed to be temporary, while the Armory underwent renovation for one year. The tournament was first held in Salisbury in February 1964 and was so well-received by the local community that it never moved back to New York City, and in fact remained at the Civic Center through 1976 before moving to Memphis. For two weeks every February, Salisbury was the center of the tennis universe—so much so that the town was featured in nationally-published magazines. In the March 2, 1964, edition of *Sports Illustrated*, Frank Deford wrote an article titled "A Small Town Moves Into the Big Time." Two years later, on March 12, 1966, Herbert Warren Wind authored "Success Story" in *The New Yorker*. The winter 1969 edition of *Maryland* magazine contained an article titled "Salisbury, New World Tennis Capital."

In February 1977, the Civic Center hosted the National Amateur Indoors. This Quonset hut-style architectural gem was destroyed by fire in June 1977 and replaced by a larger and more monolithic edifice in which several tournaments sanctioned by World Championship Tennis took place in 1980, 1981 and 1982.

The story of Bill Riordan, his development of junior tennis and the eventual arrival of top-flight international tournament play in Salisbury has been told many times and will not be repeated here. Suffice it to say that he was the Lewis and Clark of Salisbury tennis who would soon be followed by many others building on his efforts. The names of these individuals will not be mentioned here, simply because there are so many of them, and it would be unforgiveable to omit someone.

The City Park courts were the original mecca of Salisbury tennis. The park itself was created during the Depression from a marshy bog as the result of a Work Project Administration endeavor. The courts are located just north of Picnic Island in an elongated arboreal hollow surrounded by leafy residential neighborhoods on narrow winding streets. Beaverdam Creek almost touches the courts as it lazily wends its way to the river. Wooden benches are scattered about. Nearby, there is a water fountain and a pathway for joggers, dog-walkers and other strollers. Lights were installed in the late 1950s. There used to be a large unpaved parking lot on North Park Drive, next to and above the courts, making access easy—until a row of houses was erected in the late 1980s.

*Maryland State Normal School (Salisbury University) showing tennis courts. May 6, 1930. Courtesy Salisbury University Archives.*

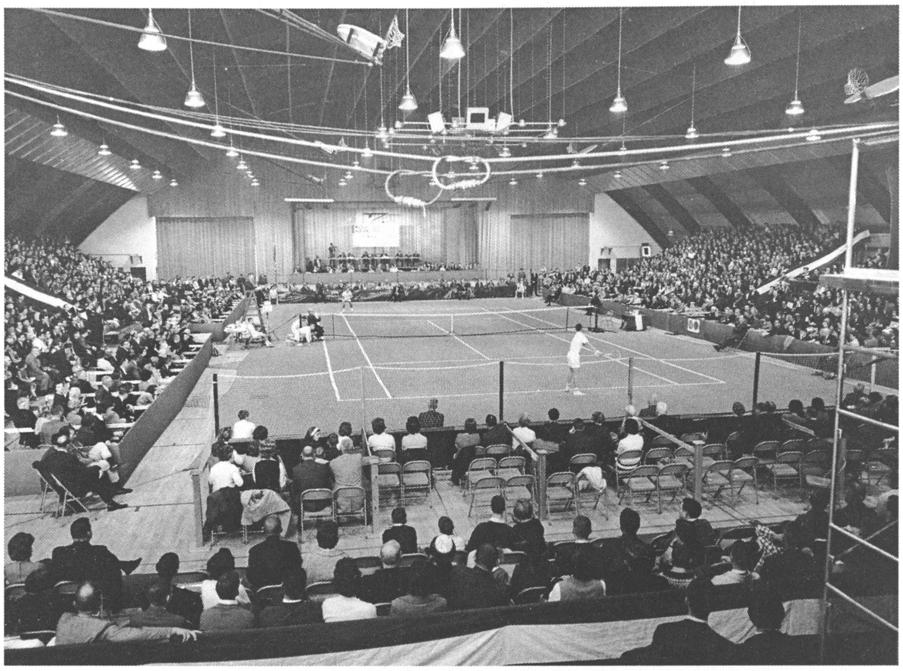
During the 1950s and '60s, the park was the tennis hangout for those baby boomers dropped off by their parents for the day. Sets of tennis were punctuated by runs to the nearby Polar Bar on East Main Street for rest and refreshment. On any given day, Bill Riordan himself might show up with a young phenom, such as an unknown Romanian by the name of Ilie Nastase, and put on an impromptu exhibition for those lucky enough to be there. After dusk, the lights of the courts shone high in the darkened skies of east Salisbury, beckoning any young man or woman who, on a whim, might drive to the courts and get a game or at least find friends to talk to.

In January 1969, mudslides in Los Angeles claimed the life of a young businessman named Michael Riordan. In his memory, his brother Bill donated a substantial sum of money for the construction of an outdoor tennis center at the YMCA, which had just moved to South Schumaker Drive across from the Wicomico Memorial Park cemetery. Compared to the idyllic setting of the City Park, the 11 courts opened in the spring of 1970 on what appeared to be a wind-swept plateau. Fortunately, wind screens and grassy mounds (on the west and south) helped block the wind. After this facility was built, the YMCA named a tennis director, and very soon leagues and local tournaments, as well as adult and junior tournaments sanctioned by the Middle Atlantic Tennis Association (MATA), were being held. (In the summer of 1974, a 15-year old John McEnroe played there in a Corish Cup match.) Inexorably, the focus of Salisbury tennis shifted from the City Park to the YMCA.

At about the same time, a group of local tennis enthusiasts began raising money for the construction of an indoor facility at the YMCA. There had been a winter indoor league at the Civic Center during 1970-71, but the slick wood surface made play difficult. The two YMCA hard courts opened in the fall of 1971 and eventually became the site of tournament and league-play for over a decade. The lighting was less than desirable, and, on those rare occasions when a ball hit the ceiling, it punched through the membrane and left a pockmark, reducing any reflected light. The poor lighting combined with a slick surface rewarded anticipation and honed volleying skills. It was fast-twitch reaction tennis played metaphorically on ice in a bat cave. Nonetheless, Salisburians could now enjoy tennis year-round. This development coincided nicely with the start of the nationwide tennis boom of the 1970s, which also ushered in the era of yellow tennis balls in plastic containers and rackets made of steel, aluminum and composite materials.

Meanwhile, the State Normal School had become the State Teachers College

(STC) in 1934 and then Salisbury State College (SSC) in 1963. Aerial photographs taken of STC sometime in the 1940s or 50s show a cement tennis court, located immediately to the north of the now obliterated clay courts and next to a lily pond. In 1963, SSC dug up that court and laid down six hard courts, all side-by-side, but a little further south and east, in an area which had once been the northern end of a dirt and cinder track. These new courts had steel-mesh nets—a measure no doubt intended to lower maintenance costs, but certainly not a bow to tradition. In addition to causing unpredictable net "cords," these awkward barriers bruised knees and eviscerated tennis balls. In the late 1960s, SSC had both men's and women's tennis teams, but they were treated as junior varsity sports.


*February 16, 1964. Finals of U.S. Indoor Tennis Tournament. Wicomico County Civic Center. Wicomico Historical Society Collection.*

In the early 1970s, SSC embarked on a path of phenomenal growth, with a special emphasis on athletics. A new tennis team coach from Florida was hired. The steel curtains were quickly replaced with traditional nets. In 1974, six new courts went in immediately north of and adjacent to the six already existing. This new northern tier of courts was lighted. One casualty, however, was the loss of a beautiful green sward which had served as a buffer between College Avenue and the original six courts. A small building and bleachers were also erected. League-play and MATA-sanctioned tournaments quickly followed. From the mid-1970s to the present, this institution, under a succession of coaches, has fielded competitive men's and women's tennis teams in National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III play.

In 1976, a local businessman opened a six-court indoor facility known as the Salisbury Indoor Racquet Club (SIRC) at Court Plaza off Pine Bluff Road. The lighting was excellent and the court surface somewhat slower, and in almost no time a majority of the indoor players moved from the YMCA to Court Plaza. In addition to league play, SIRC hosted a number of tournaments for over a decade, including the National Amateur Indoors in 1978 and 1979. Three courts were later built outside, and, for a brief period in the mid-1980s, there were outdoor leagues.

In the 1970s, Salisbury men, like their forebears, traveled to Cambridge and Easton for team matches. During the early 1980s, they played a match every fall against the SSC tennis team. Tournaments were held not only at the City Park and YMCA, but also occasionally at Canal Woods and Green Hill.

During the past 40 years, the geographical focus of local tennis has shifted. Before 1970, serious tennis was played at the park and, during the early 1970s, at the YMCA. By the mid-1970s, most outdoor players were playing at both the college and the YMCA. Indoor tennis began in earnest at the YMCA, then decamped for Court Plaza and later moved to Salisbury University's facility on Milford Street.

In the first decade of the 21st century, no subject can be treated without a review of its racial implications, if any. Until the mid-1960s, Salisbury was an overtly segregated community. There was one high school for whites (Wicomico) and one high school for blacks (Salisbury). James M. Bennett High School had begun the process of integration, but did not graduate its first senior class until 1966. Few blacks played tennis, mostly because it was considered a "country club" sport and also because of the unavailability of facilities. Salisbury High School, for example, did not have any tennis courts. For that matter, neither did Wicomico, but the City Park courts were less than a mile away from that high school. Although they were not expressly forbidden to do so, few blacks played in the park. There were no public courts on the west side of Salisbury where most blacks resided. Practically no black families lived near the college where the other courts were.

Slowly, racial attitudes began to change. In 1960, civic and business leaders formed a "biracial commission," and substantial progress began to be made in integrating restaurants, motels and other retail establishments. Salisbury actually gained something of a national reputation for open-mindedness. On July 26, 1963, *Life* magazine published an eight-page article titled "Thirty Miles Divide Folly and Reason," contrasting Salisbury's racial progress with Cambridge's continued turmoil. Bill Riordan's efforts also helped. In the late 1950s, a young black tennis player from Richmond by the name of Arthur Ashe began appearing in Salisbury to compete in the early tournaments. His superb tennis game and gentlemanly demeanor endeared him to local spectators. (Despite Ashe's general acceptance by the public, Riordan still felt it necessary that he not reside with a white family during a tournament, as was the local tradition, but rather take his lodgings at the Symington-Wayne guesthouse at Cherry Hill in Shad Point.)

Throughout the country over the past 40 years, many blacks have begun playing tennis, and Salisbury's experience has been no different. Facilities abound, and the equipment necessary to play the game is inexpensive. No special apparel is required. Because there are no private tennis clubs in Salisbury, there is not the slightest chance of facility segregation. Many black players are self-taught, yet do very well in local and regional tournaments. Tennis is a game played between two individuals on an open court. No one can hide his or her weaknesses. There are no teammates to blame in the event of a loss. There are no nuances—the ball is either in or out, over the net or in the net. Excuses of any sort are not acceptable. In short, tennis is a great leveler and therefore a truly democratic sport.

Lamentably, fewer young people are playing the game. Interest in tennis has generally waned. Skateboarders have to be chased off tennis courts. Lacrosse players bounce balls off the backboards. Even cricket players, speaking in foreign tongues, make use of the courts. Tennis requires a certain level of acquired skill as well as physical fitness. Many players "age out" of the sport due to injury and other infirmities. Golf often becomes a more alluring attraction because it is less demanding on the body and also because it is played in a more pleasing environment. (A slab of cement measuring 78 feet by 36 feet does not offer the same visual, aural and olfactory pleasures as an 18-hole golf course.) Nonetheless, a cadre of older players, like ospreys returning to their northern nests, still play in tennis leagues at the university. Meanwhile, at the park, the free spirits of tennis congregate and play pick-up matches, no doubt attracted by its verdant charm.

Tennis facilities have also undergone a metamorphosis. According to *The New Yorker* article cited previously, in 1966 there were 19 tennis courts in Salisbury. Bill Riordan built his own court on Riverside Drive later that year, and, over the past 40 years, so have many other individuals. Some of the newer subdivisions have installed them as a residential amenity. Wicomico County has also built tennis courts, not only out in the county but also in the city. Today, the Billy Gene Jackson Sr. Park located on the west side of Johnson's Pond in a predominantly black neighborhood has two lighted courts. In the late 1970s, Green Hill Yacht and Country Club ripped up its old cement courts for expanded parking and installed two Har-tru courts, with its slower and cooler surface, adjacent to the golf course. On the other hand, many courts have disappeared. In the mid-1980s, the City of Salisbury dug up the two courts which had been added in the 1960s. The Canal Woods courts are gone. The indoor YMCA tennis courts no longer exist. The once splendid outdoor courts have fallen into disuse and disrepair. In fact, the YMCA has supplanted half of them for more parking and a day-camp. The steel plaque erected in 1970 to the memory of Michael Riordan stands in mute protest to the desecration which has taken place around it. The SIRC indoor facility at Court Plaza transitioned to aerobics classes, basketball courts and soccer leagues and renamed itself Layton's Salisbury Sports Club. Later, it was sold, and today it is a self-storage facility. The high schools, with a few exceptions, have allowed their courts to deteriorate, no doubt due to budgetary constraints, but Wicomico and Bennett high schools each have four courts, while Parkside has five.

To its credit, Salisbury University (SU)—its name since 2001—has continually maintained a first-rate, 12-court outdoor complex. In that year, when the courts were resurfaced, new, stand-alone light poles were installed on the northern tier, replacing the clunky caparisoned light strands that had caused unforeseen ricochets from errant lobs. The University today encourages youngsters to play tennis by holding clinics and tennis camps. Adults make use of the outdoor facilities free-of-charge and also, from time to time, can watch top-flight tennis. The Maryland State Hardcourts Tournament took place in May 1977. In June 1978, it was the site of the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) Division One tournament. Some of the best female collegiate players in the country, representing such schools as Stanford, Southern California and UCLA, competed. The AIAW was eventually absorbed into the NCAA. Starting in the late 1970s and continuing for over two decades, the Hecht's Tournament was an annual event for local and regional players. In 1987, it was the venue of the NCAA Division III men's tournament, again bringing some of the best collegiate players from all over the country to Salisbury.

Since 1982, SU has hosted the Jack Purnell-Chris Thomas Memorial Tournament. Taking place in August immediately before the U.S. Open in Flushing Meadows, New York, this event attracts some of the best young U.S. and foreign male players hoping to move up in the rankings. SU has also recently begun hosting in August a U.S. Tennis Association-sanctioned tournament for girls 18 years of age and under. Salisbury may never regain its former tennis glory, but both these tournaments are a step in the right direction. May they be the spark kindling a renewed interest in youth tennis as well as the flame casting a glow on the fond memories of a bygone era.

**W. Newton Jackson III is an ambidextrous tennis player who moonlights as a circuit court judge.**

# *In a Word*

Continued from page 2

By Dr. G. Ray Thompson

respond to inquiries from state and local organizations, as well as regional "walk ins" who would like us to assist in identifying paintings, coinage, porcelain items, Native American artifacts and personal memorabilia. Just as often, new artifact and documentary collections come through the door, each needing to be processed, cataloged and accessioned. We do our best to respond to each person who comes to the Center, making people feel welcomed and encouraged to see our Center as a friendly place to do research on a host of subjects. We continue on with our regular programming as 14 events and exhibits during the fall semester attested to the diversity of our collections and interests.

In this issue of our *Shoreline,* we bring to you a potpourri of articles, ranging from women's fashions in the 19th century to changing views of the use and abuse of alcohol as seen in Eastern Shore records and illustrated by regional artifacts. Women in politics and tennis balls flying on Eastern Shore courts are other thoughtfully narrated articles by Nabb members. Other articles on historical sources, family history, architecture and a host of other topics are sure to whet your appetite for more! Our intention is to draw each of you into a closer relationship with the Nabb Center so that you might see at first hand just how "without you, we're history." Enjoy this issue!

# *Native Americans and First Contact on Lower Delmarva*

By Ursula Ehrhardt

"Native Americans and First Contact on Lower Delmarva," an exhibition organized by Salisbury University's Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture, documents the presence and way of life of various Algonquian Indian peoples residing in the region of the Chesapeake Bay, both before and after the arrival of the English colonists.

The exhibition actually covers a longer time period and wider geographic area than implied by its title, which refers to the exhibition's principal focus. For example, some of the artifacts on display, such as pottery, stone tools and sharpened points of varying size that once topped spears for hunting or defense, pre-date the arrival of the English. Likewise, the region covered by the exhibition encompasses not only Lower Delmarva, but also Virginia, which initially included the colony of Roanoke Island off the North Carolina coast.

Most of the information about the region's various Indian peoples or "nations," as the English called them, comes from written accounts by the English, maps (showing Indian "towns" or villages) and other visual sources, such as the detailed watercolor drawings of John White, an artist and cartographer who accompanied Sir Walter Raleigh's expedition to Roanoke Island in the late 1500s.

Facsimiles of a number of White's watercolors, now in the British Museum, are on display, together with copies of maps of the Chesapeake Bay region from this period, including John Smith's map of Virginia (first published in 1612). Smith, in addition to being one of the founders of Jamestown Colony, was also an explorer, cartographer and prolific writer on the New World.

Much of the information in the exhibition is presented in the form of lengthy quotations from written accounts, such as those by Smith and others, who had extensive contact with Native Americans in the late 16th and early 17th centuries. These writings address the Indians' appearance, customs, housing, villages, diet, farming and hunting practices, religion, attitudes toward the land, political organization, and handicrafts, including tools, weapons, baskets and pottery.

The comprehensive picture of Native American life that emerges is one of many different peoples who lived in small farming communities, rarely numbering more than 100 individuals, and who were linked by a common way of life and a similar language, specifically, different dialects of Algonquian.

This way of life was not just profoundly altered by the coming of the English settlers (Jamestown was founded in 1607), but had effectively ended by the late 1600s, primarily due to loss of land and disease. As early as 1629, for instance, John Smith described Virginia as follows: "Most of the wood destroyed, little corne there planted, but all converted into pasture and gardens ... ."

The Indian population declined precipitously as a result of European diseases, such as smallpox, chicken pox and measles, for which the Indians had no immunity. Indian healing practices, which involved touch ("laying on of hands"), and visits by friends and relatives, inadvertently spread these diseases, leading to epidemics that killed up to 90 percent of the population in some areas.

The Eastern Shore of Maryland did not attract many settlers until the 1650s (in the area north of the Pocomoke River) and early 1660s (south of the Nanticoke River). At that time, the native peoples included the Wicomiss, Choptank, Nanticoke, Wicomico, Manokin, Pokomoke and Assateague indians.

They were quickly overwhelmed as the colonists settled on and even "patented" Indian lands, meaning that the colonists' claims were recognized and the land officially granted to them by the colony's Lord Proprietor.

By the late 1660s and 1670s most of the major Indian tribes were politically dependent upon Maryland's colonial government for their continuing survival. Former Indian towns, such as Askiminikansen (on the Pocomoke River near Snow Hill), Chicone (on the Nanticoke River in Dorchester County) and Tundotank (on the Wicomico, near Salisbury), had become reservations, with well-defined boundaries created by the Maryland government.

None of these reservations were long-lasting. By 1776, at the time of the Declaration of Independence, the Indian reservations on Maryland's Eastern Shore had ceased to exist, except for the Choptank reservation near Cambridge, which survived until 1799.

In addition to this broad historical overview, the exhibition also presents detailed information on the complex relationships and shifting alliances among the various Indian tribes, as well as their various legal dealings with the Maryland government.

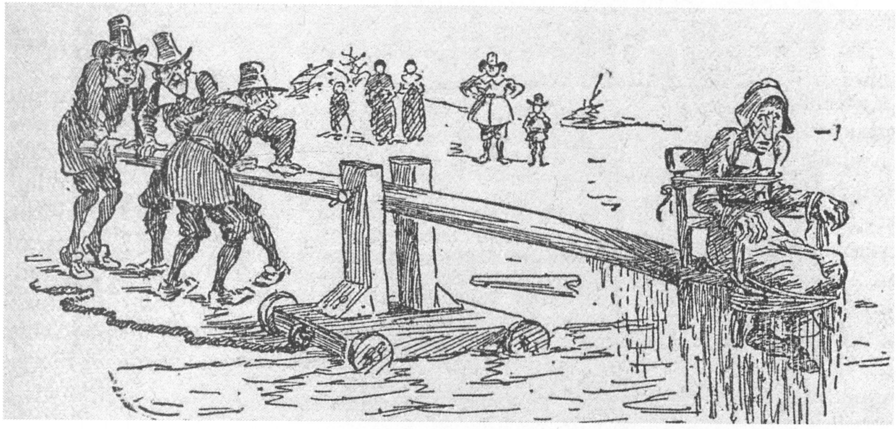
This is a most interesting exhibition, full of information about a little-known period of Maryland and American history. It also serves as an introduction to "ethnohistory," which combines the traditional focus on research and interpretation of documents with methods of analysis and field work derived from anthropology and archeology.

The exhibition will be on view in the Nabb Center's Gallery through May 20, 2011. Gallery hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1-4 p.m., or by appointment. Call 410-543-6312 for details.

**Professor Ursula Ehrhardt teaches art history at Salisbury University. A slightly different version of this review was published in The Daily Times on September 26, 2010. Used with permission of the author.**

# *Mabell Bounds and the Ducking Stool: Punishment For Women in 17th Century Somerset Courts*

By Jefferson Boyer



As anyone who has done historical research knows, at times you can hit pay dirt accidentally. Such is the case with the discovery that the ducking stool was used to punish offenders in Somerset County in the late 1600s. While re-shelving books at the Nabb Research Center, I glanced at an open page of a local genealogy book that had been in use earlier that day. Just as I was about to close the book, the phrases "her insolency in court" and "ducking stool" caught my eye. Ducking stool? I have only heard a reference to ducking stools in the witch trials, I thought to myself. And so, my journey for answers began ... .

A ducking stool consisted of a wooden armchair securely joined to the end of a sizeable wooden pole. The offender was then bound to the chair and dunked. Between the shock of the ice-cold water and the extensive length of time one was submersed, it was undoubtedly a miserable sentence. However, for an accused witch, the ducking stool punishment was far worse—if she drowned, she was deemed innocent!

The ducking stool had been a common punishment in English society since medieval times, and more often than not, it was used to punish the crimes of women. "Scolds," or wives who nagged their husbands, were brought before a judge and often sentenced to the ducking stool. The use of ducking stools in the Maryland colony goes back to the 1660s. Only three years into the decade, county courts were ordered to be equipped with "stocks, pillarie, whipping poste and ducking stoole."

The earliest reference to ducking stools in Somerset County dates to 1671 when the record of November 16 tells us that Henry Smith was to be paid for constructing a pair of stocks and a ducking stool at the head of the "Back Creek of Manoakin where the court of this county was formerly kept." The next mention of the ducking stool in the Somerset judicial record does not appear for 16 more years when the case of Mabell Bounds' insolency was heard and she was fined 500 pounds of tobacco in 1687/88. Mabell's husband John Bounds appealed the fine two years later and proposed that instead of paying with tobacco, not only could he "make or cause to be made a new ducking stool where the old one now stands," but also agreed to keep it in good condition for six years. The judge agreed to this deal but added that a fine of 3,000 pounds of tobacco was due if Bounds could not hold up his end of the bargain.

Although we know that there was a ducking stool in Somerset County, the question remains if it was ever used. Continuing my journey for answers, I conducted a few keyword searches of the online Somerset County judicial records in the Maryland State Archives, but nothing matched "stool" or "ducking." Nor did a search for the terms "nag" or "scold" yield any results for women brought before Somerset courts or the Maryland colony for unruly tongues.

The uncertainty continued even with Mabell Bounds, who was brought before the court on multiple charges, one of which was for saying "several injurious words" to the local sheriff. Her fine was in tobacco and not in a sentence to the ducking stool, although this method could have been used. In addition to foul language, the formidable Mabell Bounds was tried for her involvement in a conspiracy to conceal a neighbor woman's illegitimate pregnancy, the possible infanticide of the child and refusing to reveal the location of the fugitive woman who was hiding from justice. Further ambiguity arose a year after the incident when a suspicious separation agreement entered the courts from Mabell's husband.

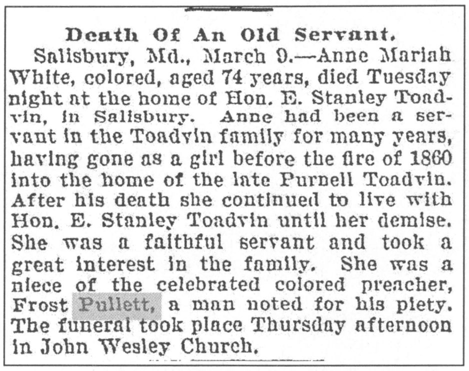
While the uncertainty of the separation document mirrors the uncertainty of the use of the ducking stool as punishment in Somerset courts, one can be sure of several things. One, regardless of if a woman was a witch or not, the ducking stool was a cruel form of punishment, especially when compared to modern standards. And although the ducking stool is a form of punishment long abolished in the courts, knowledge of this subject allows modern-day readers to see that seemingly small crimes, like nagging one's husband, could result in severe penalties for women. Additionally, we can be sure that Mabell Bounds, with her willingness to help others, even in the face of adversity, was admirable. Perhaps, future *Shorelines* will be an opportunity to learn more on this incredible woman's life.

**Jefferson Boyer is a Nabb Research Center volunteer, past president of the Whitehaven Heritage Association and instructor at Wor-Wic Community College and Salisbury University.**

# *Was Anne Mariah White Really the Niece of the Rev. Frost Pollitt? Going to the Sources for Answers*

By L. Paul Morris Jr.

While conducting a wild card search in the historical *Baltimore Sun* newspaper, available at the Nabb Research Center through the Salisbury University Library Research Portal, I came across a Reverend Frost Pollitt, a prominent African-American minister from the Eastern Shore. On March 10, 1905, the paper listed an article titled "Death of an Old Servant." This article is, in reality, an obituary of Anne Mariah White and is printed in full below.



**Death Of An Old Servant.**

Salisbury, Md., March 9.—Anne Mariah White, colored, aged 74 years, died Tuesday night at the home of Hon. E. Stanley Toadvin, in Salisbury. Anne had been a servant in the Toadvin family for many years, having gone as a girl before the fire of 1860 into the home of the late Purnell Toadvin. After his death she continued to live with Hon. E. Stanley Toadvin until her demise. She was a faithful servant and took a great interest in the family. She was a niece of the celebrated colored preacher, Frost Pullett, a man noted for his piety. The funeral took place Thursday afternoon in John Wesley Church.

*ProQuest Historical Newspapers. The Baltimore Sun Obituary March 10, 1905.*

> Salisbury, Md., March 9. – Anne Mariah White, colored, aged 74 years, died Tuesday night at the home of Hon. E. Stanley Toadvin of Salisbury. Anne had been a servant in the Toadvin family for many years, having gone as a girl before the fire of 1860 into the home of the late Purnell Toadvin. After his death she continued to live with Hon. E. Stanley Toadvin until her demise. She was a faithful servant and took a great deal of interest in the family. She was a niece of the celebrated colored preacher, Frost Pullett, a man noted for his piety. The funeral took place Thursday afternoon in John Wesley Church.

Although I had done extensive research on Frost Pollitt, I did not know of any nieces of the Rev. Frost Pollitt (Pullett), with the surname White. I had just completed an exhaustive research into this African-American Pollitt family, as well as the five free black founders of the John Wesley Methodist Church in Salisbury for the 2010 Nabb Research Center exhibit "Sources of Black Community: Family and Faith" and had not seen the name of Anne Mariah White in any of the records I had examined. One of the possibilities was that she was descended from one of the untraced lines of a brother or sister of Frost or a sibling of his wife Easter Morris.

In an attempt to discover who the elusive "Anne Mariah White" was, I requested a copy of her death certificate from the Maryland State Archives. When the death certificate, dated March 7, 1905, arrived, more questions emerged. I had not previously heard of the man listed as her father, Dennard Pollitt, as he was not listed as a brother to Frost. Most likely the trail would lead me short a generation or with the assumption that Anne's mother, Sylvia Pollitt, was Frost's sister-in-law through his wife.

A search of the Worcester County, Maryland, Land Records produced an 1856 manumission from William Pollitt for a negro woman, Silvey, wife of Denwood White. Now this was making more sense. It is highly possible that Anna Mariah White spoke frequently of her relationship to Frost, but not how she was related. E. Stanley Toadvin, as the person submitting the death certificate information, may have known that her father was Dennard or Denwood and that her mother was Silvey. Perhaps he substituted "Pollitt" in place of White on the death certificate by mistake.

Further research in the Somerset County, Maryland, Land Records produced an 1848 manumission from Martin Game for a Denard White. Additionally, Martin Game states that he purchased Denard from Mrs. Lina [Siner] White and that the Bill of Sale was recorded in the Land Records of Worcester County (Liber GMH No. 8, folios 550-551). The Bill of Sale dated February 10, 1846, shows Siner White, widow of Benjamin, selling negro man Denard to Martin Game, free negro. Further investigation found a Somerset Certificate of Freedom dated April 25, 1848, adding details of Denard White's physical appearance.

Although the next step to further research this family connection would be to research Benjamin White, for additional Bills of Sales and manumissions as grantees and grantors and then to study Benjamin White's will and inventory, I have chosen not to do this as my belief now is that Anne Mariah White's connection to her Uncle Rev. Frost Pollitt is through her mother's side.

Turning to the Census, I did find in the 1860 Maryland Census in Worcester County, Parsons District, Salisbury, the following listing:

Dennard White, age 51, born abt 1809 in Maryland
Silvey White, age 60, born abt 1800 in Maryland

Returning to the William Pollitt who freed Silvey in 1856, we need to learn more about which William Pollitt he was and how he obtained Silvey.

Additional research found more information on William Pollitt, although more thorough research needs to be conducted to confirm that this is the correct William Pollitt who manumitted Silvey in 1856. From the timeline presented below, I have determined that William Pollitt (1800 - ?) was the son of Joshua and Sally Pollitt.

**Timeline for Silvey (Pollitt) White:**

**1801:** Silvey Pollitt born in Worcester County, Maryland, most likely as a slave in the household of Joshua Pollitt.

**November 1820:** Worcester County, Maryland, Wills Liber MH No. 10, folio 449 Will of Joshua Pollitt of Worcester County, lists wife Sarah and children. **Sarah is devised all personal property, all negroes and their increases.**

**1841:** Worcester County, Maryland, Inventory of Joshua Pollitt of Worcester, deceased, late of Worcester County. **Joshua's Inventory was not completed until 1841 and did not list**

*John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church, now known as the Charles H. Chipman Cultural Center, Salisbury, Maryland. Wicomico Historical Society Collection.*

**much of interest. His widow most likely evoked her dower rights and hence delayed the inventory until after her death.**

**June 19, 1830:** Worcester County, Maryland, (Land Records) Bill of Sale William Pollitt of Joshua from Thomas Pollitt for five negroes, one being negro named Silvy, Liber AW folios 202 & 203. **Thomas, as a surviving son, sold his interest in his negroes to his brother William Pollitt.**

**September 14, 1830:** Worcester County, Maryland, (Land Records) Bill of Sale William Pollitt of Joshua from Sally Pollitt widow of Joshua for five negroes, one being negro woman named Silvy, Liber AW folios 294 & 295. **Sally, as the widow with dower rights, sold her interest in her negroes to her son, William Pollitt.**

**October 23, 1841:** Worcester County, Maryland, (Land Records) Bill of Sale Purnell Toadvine from William Pollitt for negroes Liber GMH No. 5 folios 36 & 37; lists Silvia, age about 40 years.

**February 11, 1848:** Somerset County Court (Land Records) Deed of Manumission for Denard White from Martin Game, Liber WP No. 2, folio 448, [MSA CE 102-68]; Denard White was the husband of Silvy Pollitt.

**January 19, 1856:** Worcester County Circuit Court (Land Records) Deed of manumission for Negro Silvey, wife of Denard White, from William Pollitt, Liber EDM No. 7, folio 265, [MSA CE-31-4].

**June 11, 1860:** Maryland Census, Worcester County, Parsons District, Salisbury; listed as Silvey White, age 60 (born about 1800) in household of Denard White, age 51.

**Timeline for Anne Mariah White:**

**1830:** Anne Mariah White born to Denard (Denwood) and Silvey Pollitt White.

**August 10, 1870:** Wicomico County, Maryland, 1870 Census. Ann Toadvine, age 35, black, was listed as a domestic servant, in the household of Purnell Toadvine. This would indicate that she was born about 1835.

**June 15, 1880:** Wicomico County, Maryland, 1880 Census. Annie White, age 41, black, servant and cook, was listed in the household of Thomas F.J. and his wife Josaphine Rider. Josaphine was the daughter of Purnell Toadvine who died before 1880. This would indicate that Ann was born about 1839.

**June 28, 1900:** Wicomico County, Maryland, 1900 Census. Ann M. White, age 70, black, is listed as a servant born in February 1830 in the household of E. Stanley Toadvine, a lawyer.

**March 7, 1905:** Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland, Anne Mariah White, age 74, 1 month, dies, a single person.

**Timeline for Israel Pollitt:**

**1800:** Israel Pollitt born in Worcester County, Maryland, most likely as a slave in the household of Joshua Pollitt.

**November 1820:** Worcester County, Maryland, Wills Liber MH No. 10, folio 449. Will of Joshua Pollitt of Worcester County lists wife Sarah, and children. **Sarah is devised all personal property, all negroes and their increases.**

**1841:** Worcester County, Maryland, Inventory of Joshua Pollitt of Worcester, deceased, late of Worcester County. **Joshua's Inventory was not completed until 1841 and did not list much of interest. His widow most likely evoked her dower rights and hence delayed the inventory until after her death.**

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**October 23, 1841:** Worcester County, Maryland, (Land Records) Bill of Sale Purnell Toadvine from William Pollitt for negroes Liber GMH No. 5 folios 36 & 37; lists Israel, age about 44 years.

**March 25, 1853:** Worcester County Circuit Court (Land Records) Deed of manumission for Negro Silvey, wife of Denard White, from Purnell Toadvine, Liber LW No. 2, folio 149 & 150, [MSA CE-31-4].

**July 20, 1860:** Trappe District, Somerset County, Maryland, Census 1860, Israel Pollitt is listed as age 60, or born in 1800.

**June 9, 1870:** Trappe District No. 7, Wicomico County, Maryland, Census 1870, Israel Pollitt is listed as age 74, or born 1796.

**February 5, 1875:** Wicomico County, Maryland, (Land Records) Deed Israel Pollitt and others Trustees of the [Mt. Calvary] M.E. Church (Fruitland) from Humphrey Humphreys and others, Liber SPT No. 1, folios 378 & 379. One of the other trustees was Levin Robinson [b. c. 1810, husband of Milkey (Pollitt) Robinson, daughter of the Rev. Frost Pollitt].

**1880:** Trappe Dist No. 7, Wicomico County, Maryland, Census 1880, Israel Pollitt is listed as age 84, or born 1796.

Therefore, my belief is that Anne Mariah White (1830-

1905) was the niece of the Reverend Frost Pollitt through her mother Silvey Pollitt. Joshua Pollitt wrote his will in Worcester County in 1815 and died in 1820, leaving all of his personal property, negroes and their increases to his wife Sally. In 1830 Joshua Pollitt's estate listed a woman Hannah, a man Israel, a woman Silvey, boy Joseph and a girl Eliza. William sold the following slaves to Purnell Toadvine on October 23, 1841:

**Negro Israel, age 44 years, born about 1797**
**Negro Joseph, 33 years, born about 1808**
**Negro Sylvia, age 40 years, born about 1801**
**Negro Eliza, age 28 years, born about 1813**
Ann, age 20 years, born about 1821
Elzy, age 8 years, born about 1833
Hetty Jane, age 3 years, born about 1838
May, age 7 years, born about 1834
Martha, age 3 years, born about 1838
Negro James, age 2 years, born about 1839

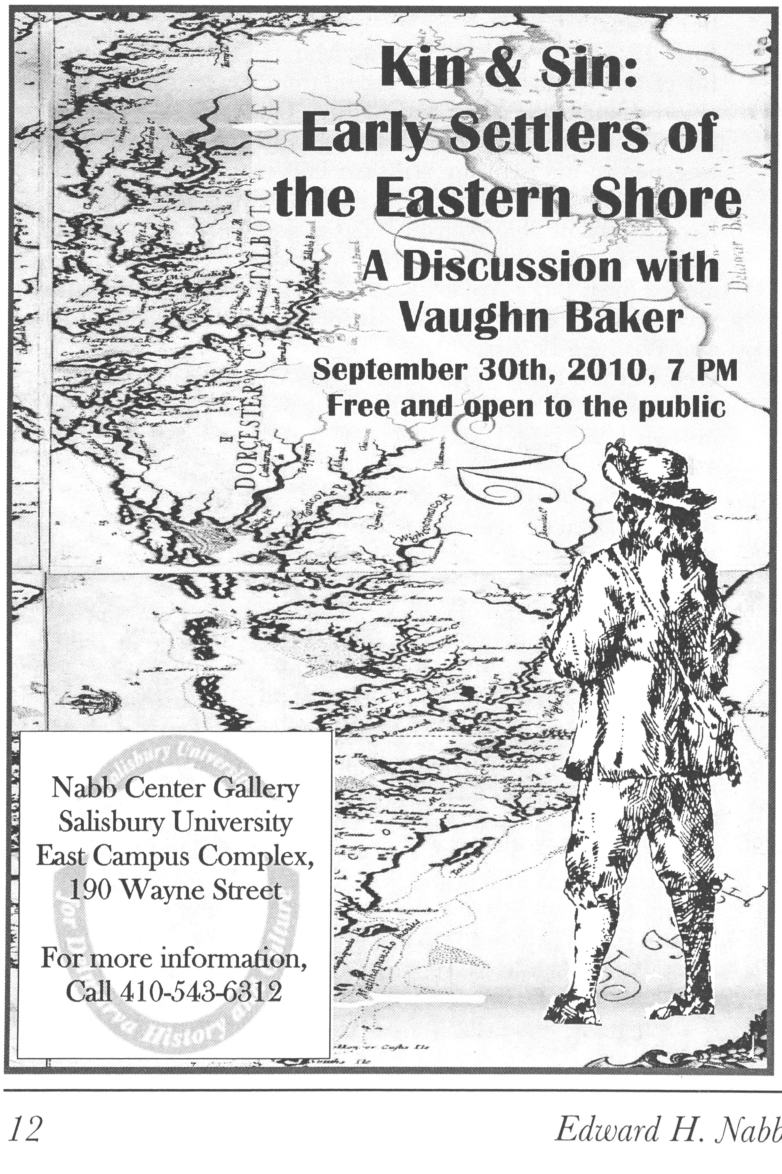
The only one that is missing is Hannah, who may have died. Based on further research into the census and other documents, it is believed that Elzy or Elzey, Hetty Jane, May, Martha and James were children of Israel Pollitt. Elzey Pollitt later served as a Trustee of the Mt. Calvary M.E. Church in Fruitland, Maryland.

Joshua's son William Pollitt owned Silvey until she was manumitted in 1856 (although this is contradicted by the document that shows her sale to Purnell Toadvine in 1841) and Israel Pollitt until he sold him to Purnell Toadvine in 1853. That Israel, Silvey, Joseph and Eliza were transferred together at least twice leads me to believe that Israel and Silvey were brother and sister. Joseph, born in 1808, has not been researched.

Joshua Pollitt (1752-1820) was the brother of William Pollitt (June 10, 1756-January 4, 1816). I believe that Lucy, Sal, Bridget, Frost, Mill, George, Taymar, Charles, Ann and Titus, the children of Titus and Rachel Pollitt (negroes), knew the slaves of Joshua and Sally Pollitt: Hannah, Israel, Silvey, Joseph and Eliza Ann. One of Silvey's other sisters could easily have been Esther who was bought by James Morris and later became the wife of the Reverend Frost Pollitt.

Thus without the inventory of Joshua Pollitt in 1820, which listed all of his slaves and their ages at that time, we might never have known the true connection of Anne Mariah White to the Reverend Frost Pollitt. Neither of their graves has ever been located.

**L. Paul Morris Jr. is vice chair of the Nabb Research Center Board of Directors and a Nabb Center volunteer. He has done extensive family history research.**



**Kin & Sin: Early Settlers of the Eastern Shore**

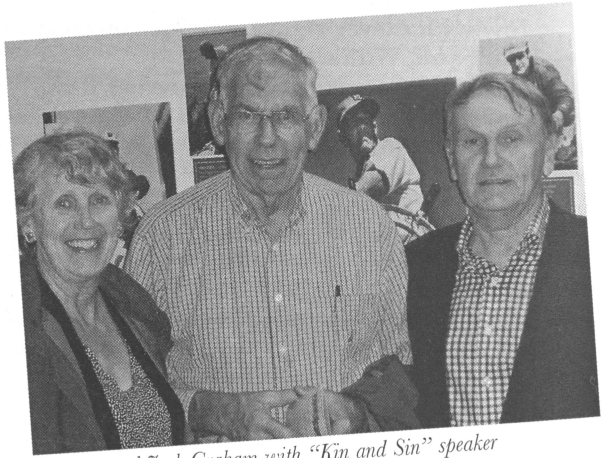
**A Discussion with Vaughn Baker**

**September 30th, 2010, 7 PM**
**Free and open to the public**

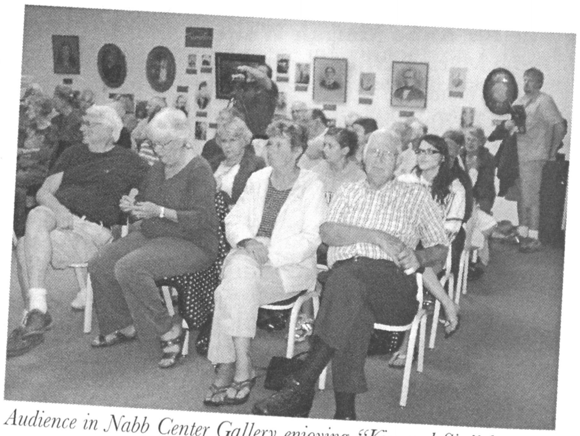
Nabb Center Gallery
Salisbury University
East Campus Complex,
190 Wayne Street

For more information,
Call 410-543-6312

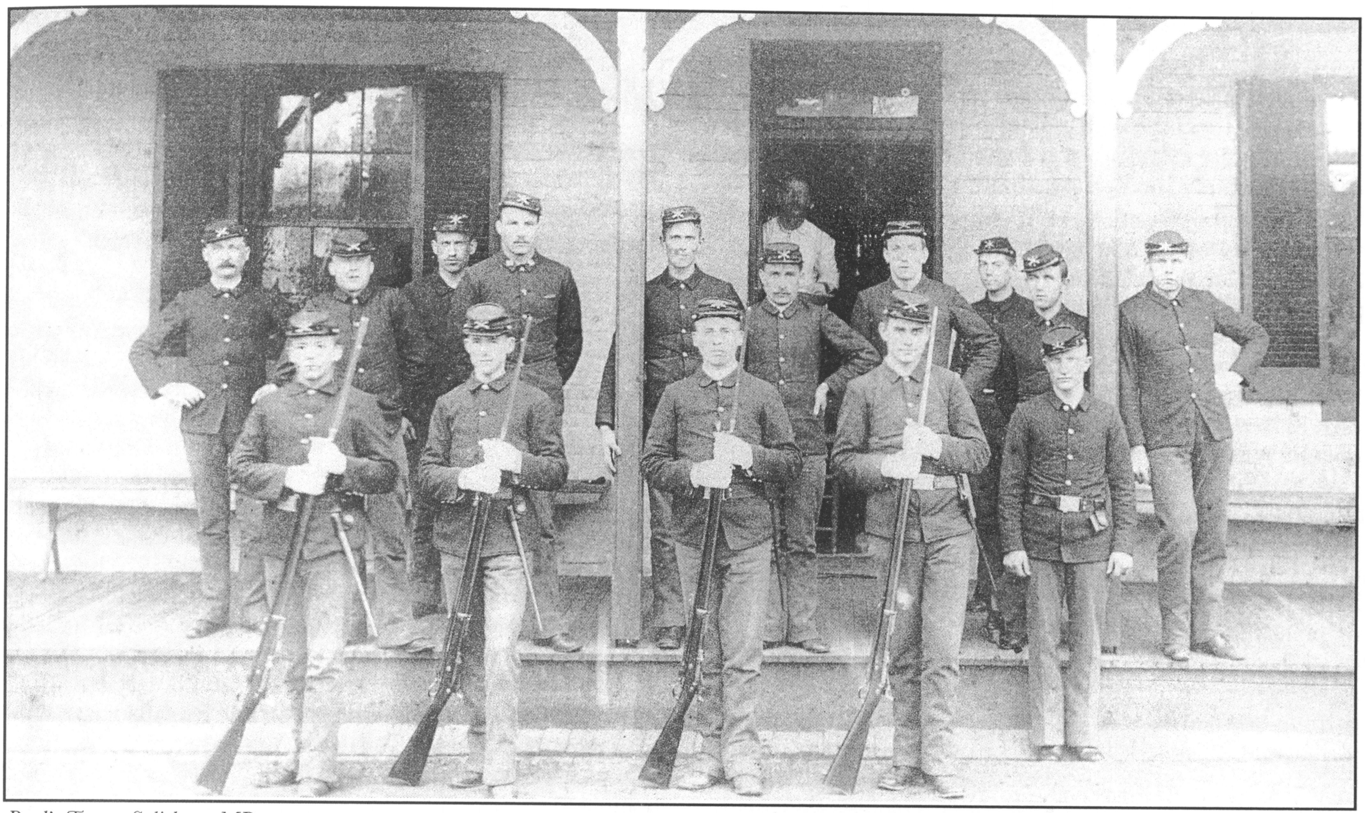
TALBOT
DORCESTER
Chaptanck R.
Delaware B.



*Martha and Jack Graham with "Kin and Sin" speaker Vaughn Baker in the Nabb Center Gallery.*



*Audience in Nabb Center Gallery enjoying "Kin and Sin" lecture.*



*Byrd's Tavern Salisbury, MD.*

# *The Tavern or Ordinary: A Social Institution of the Eastern Shore*

By Paul Marshner

Ordinaries or taverns were an everyday fact of life from the 17th century until the 19th century on the Eastern Shore. Since there were few towns of any size, ordinaries and taverns began to grow up around courthouses and at crossroads. Most Eastern Shoremen and their families did not travel great distances. Going to Court Days were important outings for many early residents of the Eastern Shore. They provided families with an opportunity to socialize and catch up on local gossip and events outside the area and across the ocean. Usually only county commissioners and clerks, merchants, and well-to-do planters traveled for business, so market days and court days were special events.

Travel on land was slow and laborious. The earliest Eastern Shore roads were merely paths that had originally been Indian trails through the woods or along the coast. Bridges over creeks and rivers were often only wide enough for foot traffic. As roads began to improve and as cart and carriage traffic became more common, roads were widened and made more usable. Even so, roads were no more than packed earth, which could turn into a muddy surface with deep ruts and endanger traffic of all sorts—foot, horse or carriage.

Since travel was so arduous, inns and taverns were created at central locations where people could eat a meal or even stay the night if they desired. Inns, located at crossroads and at river wharves, provided food and lodging for stagecoach and riverboat passengers. Inns were sometimes private homes; more often, however, inns or taverns were constructed with the idea that travelers could spend the night after eating a meal. Rooms were seldom private, having more than one bed. A number of individuals, often four to six, would sleep in one bed, whether they knew each other or not. The expression, "toes to nose," refers to the substantial number of people who could be crammed into a single bed. These tavern bedrooms had no locks on the doors, so privacy was not a possibility. Cleanliness and hygiene were also lacking in such establishments. Bedbugs and vermin of various sorts constantly kept chamber occupants from a restful night's sleep. Sheets were not cleaned after each night's use. Renting a bedroom meant renting space "in the bed." Usually only men lodged in a tavern. Women, if they were traveling, usually lodged in the homes of families who built their homes near the ordinary.

Ordinaries and taverns offered not only food, drink and lodging, but also entertainment of various sorts. There was alcohol aplenty and, if the innkeeper's wife was a master cook, good food could be had as well. Entertainments were an ordinary part of every tavern stay. Board games were plentiful. Corn liquor and other forms of alcohol could be found at any tavern. Although both sexes indulged, drunkenness was considered shameful for a woman, but not for a man.

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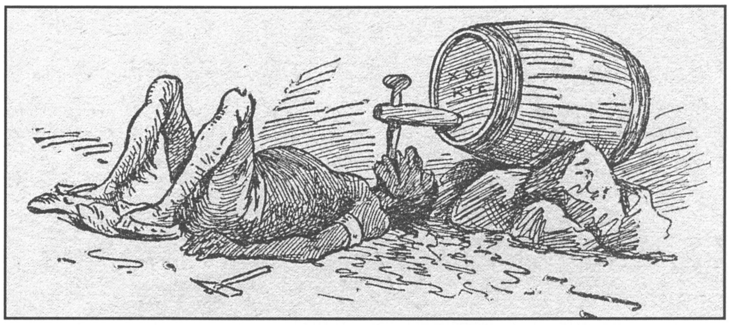
**Paul Marshner, a Nabb Center volunteer, also is active with the Adkins Historical and Museum Complex in Mardela Springs.**

# *A Taste For Drinke*

By G. Ray Thompson



From the earliest settlement of America, "spirits" of various kinds have been an integral part of the lives of settlers. Even before the pilgrims stepped foot off the Mayflower in 1620, they were reported to have grumbled about the lack of beer. The earliest court records of Somerset County, Maryland, reference tavern keepers and the types of alcohol that they sold to thirsty locals. Coming from Europe where water, in the 17th century, had a bad reputation as being polluted and undrinkable, the first Eastern Shoremen believed that alcohol was essential to good health. A good stiff drink could warm a person on cold nights; alcohol made hard work more bearable; it was thought to aid digestion and, in general, to sustain one's constitution. As a practical matter, alcohol kept well at sea, whereas, water could become stale in the huge wooden barrels aboard ships. By and large, colonists distrusted water, therefore, alcohol came to be a daily part of life. Beer, wine and distilled spirits of various kinds are mentioned in inventories of the 17th and 18th centuries. Liquor was not considered a luxury—rather it was thought to be a necessity for every household.

Although initially alcohol of all types, as is seen in the attached list of "spirits" in the usual Somerset County tavern in 1687, was imported from Europe, it soon began to be distilled locally. Beverage preferences were, as historian Mark Lender has noted in *Drinking in America: A History*, as much a part of the immigrants' cultural baggage as were their styles of dress, architecture and art. The colonies adopted England's preference for beer as their drink of choice—for health reasons. Unfortunately beer was the least convenient liquid to ship: it spoiled faster than gin or brandy and had a considerably lower alcohol content. Yet, rationality gave way to tradition as beer became the English drink of choice in the Colonial Chesapeake.

Yet, by the mid-17th century, other alcoholic beverages became equally popular to beer. Wine had became common—Ffyall, Passada, Madera, claret and brandy wines are all mentioned as a normal part of a tavern keeper's drink menu in Somerset County. These wines, however, were imported and thus more expensive than locally produced beverages. Hard liquors were another matter—brandy "wine," also called "aqua vitae," referred to any distilled beverage. Its high alcoholic content made it a favorite drink; it also had the advantage of keeping longer than beer.

As colonists turned to distilling their own hard liquors, they proved adaptable. It was easier to use local grains and fruits than to have the finished product shipped across the Atlantic. Pear alcohol was distilled locally and quaffed at the many inns of the Lower Eastern Shore.

The apple provided a major impetus for distilling. Europeans had brought apple seeds with them when they settled the Chesapeake. Orchards flourished. Hard cider, naturally fermented to about 7 percent alcohol content, became especially popular and equaled beer in popularity. Cider (syder) was also a very potent "applejack" drink in the mid-Atlantic region. In many Eastern Shore inventories, peach brandy and cider were commonplace.

Rum, by the mid-17th century, became a popular drink in the Chesapeake. It was more potent than beer or wine. Rum, distilled from sugar and molasses, could be quite strong. Distilled in the West Indies, it was closer and more convenient to obtain than European liquors. In the accompanying chart of alcohol prices in 17th century Somerset, "burnt Rumme" and "Raw Rumme" were the most expensive liquors available to innkeepers.

Alcohol was a part of daily life in the colonies, both in the home and in the tavern. In Colonial homes, beer and cider were the usual beverages at mealtime; even children drank alcohol at the dinner table.

Taverns were among the first structures erected in the colonies. By the 1680s, alcohol was being regulated on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Taverns had to be licensed in order to sell alcohol. Taverns also filled a variety of practical social needs. In many areas, they were the only nighttime lodging for travelers. They were also public places where court might be held. Whether at home or in a tavern, excessive drinking was not sanctioned, as court records demonstrate. An infraction of this drinking rule might lead to a person's lying "neck and heels" in the stocks or in his having to make a pair of stocks for punishing other disturbers of the peace.

Court sessions brought much business to taverns. John Coale's tavern in Accomack County is described in the 1674/5 court records as having been the cause of much general "rowdiness." Garrett Supple, who apparently frequented Coale's tavern, was fined 100 pounds of tobacco for rioting, drinking and "behaving insolently" in the presence of the justices of the county court. Edward Hammond, who admitted to being somewhat "overcome by drinke," was also brought into court and fined. Tobias Butler, who "misdemeaned" himself by coming drunk to court, spent an hour in the stocks that had been made by the tavern keeper himself. Coale had had to make the stocks as a punishment for his own "rude and disorderly actions" in allowing his tavern to sell drink "on the feast day of the nativity of our Lord."

Coale's tavern must have been just as disorderly in the summertime as it was in the winter months. The Accomack County Court records note that on one occasion several men who were drinking at the tavern heard a gunshot outside. Not long thereafter, it was noticed that John Shockley's horse was wounded in the head. Several men at the tavern then became involved in a fracas as a result of which, months later, Shockley was awarded damages by the Court.

Coale himself brought charges against many of the men who came to his tavern but who did not pay their bar bills. Thirty-nine men were sued for almost 33,000 pounds of tobacco. Coale allowed that one barrel of rum was valued at 800 pounds of tobacco and that 50 gallons of cider cost him 500 pounds of tobacco. His tavern also sold ale, wine, sack and a strong ale called "mum." He was later brought before the court for selling his spirits at a different rate than that set by the Assembly.

Alcohol could have disastrous effects. In Accomack County in January 1665/66, a court record describes the death of John Manington, a servant of Thomas Leatherbury. Manington, standing by the chimney fire, stumbled on an andiron, tripped and fell into a kettle of wort, a liquid that was being boiled into beer over the fire. Manington died as a result of the unfortunate accident.

Loosening of tongues was a frequent result of alcoholic use. John Barnet, in 1673, declared in open court in Accomack County that he was drunk when he ignorantly committed a crime by "breaking his Majesty's peace." At the same court, Roger Michell also acknowledged himself to be drunk, for which the court ordered that he be fined 50 pounds of tobacco, that he pay court costs and remain in custody till posting a bond for good behavior. It appeared to the Accomack justices that Ambrose Archer had been behaving loosely in the company of Charles Scarburgh's servants at Scarburgh's house "in drunkenness and debauchedness." The court ordered that Archer acknowledge "his hearty sorrow" to Scarburgh for his misbehavior in open court and to pay court costs. In 1673, James Harrison insolently behaved himself in court and was taken into custody to appear in a later court for his "presumptious carriage." He humbled himself and admitted his offense, saying he was "overcome in drinke." He was to pay 50 pounds tobacco for his drunkenness and was ordered not to demean himself before the court in the future.

Drink was forever getting Accomack citizens into trouble. John Rickards, in November 1669, publicly declared he was drunk when he bargained with neighbor William Ebourne for a horse. Ebourne was to pay Rickards 40 gallons of cider, a barren cow and 450 pounds of tobacco for the horse. A gallon of cider and sugar was brought in as a bargain, but according to the court record, Rickards did not drink any of it (at that time). After completing the bargain with Ebourne, Rickards called for a gallon of cider and sugar, and the next day he sold his saddle for another gallon of cider and sugar. Just this sort of behavior was to bring Rickards back into court. Defamatory talk was also the result of over-indulgence. In December 1677, a Christopher Sadbury of Accomack was sued by Nathaniel Bradford for defamation. Sadbury said he was too drunk to come to court and was fined 50 pounds of tobacco and ordered to appear at the next court.

Accomack County was not the only county in which offenses involving alcohol created problems. In Sussex County, Delaware, at a court of September 1694, James Thomas, James Stanfield and Samuel Preston were called to court for retailing liquors without a license. The following September, Sussex County Court records relate the sale of a colt to John Barker for a "bottle of rum and 1 pound of powder." Barker was soon brought into court because he had not paid the rum and powder for the colt.

The Somerset County records are also replete with locals being brought in for over-drinking. Between late 1688 and 1691, Daniel McGlaughlan, Rhody Patrick, Charles Johnson, Francis Thoroughgood, William Matthews, Richard Plunkett, Thomas Roberts, Teague Riggin, John Weatherley, John Broughton and Thomas Powell were all dragged into court on account of their drunken behaviors.

Fear of the abuse of spirits in the inns and ordinaries of the Eastern Shore led local officials to have a concern over its misuse, thus, the requirement to license ordinaries or taverns and to have on public record the types of alcohol sold and the price of each type of alcohol. The chart on the next page shows the prices for various kinds of local potables consumed by Somerset County residents in the tavern of John Webb in 1687/88.

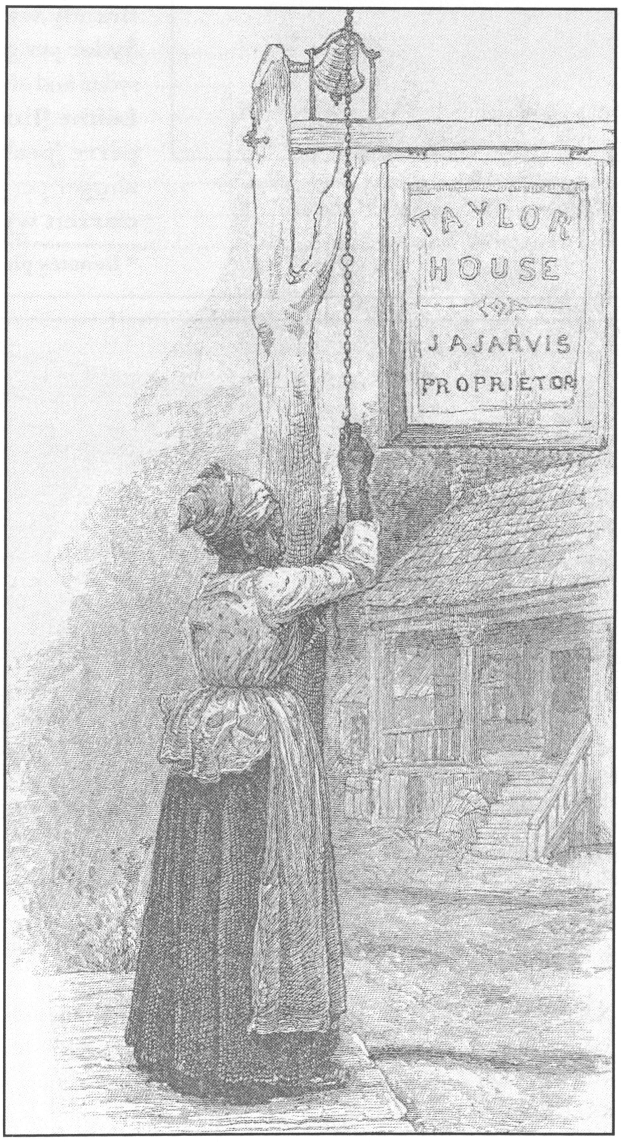
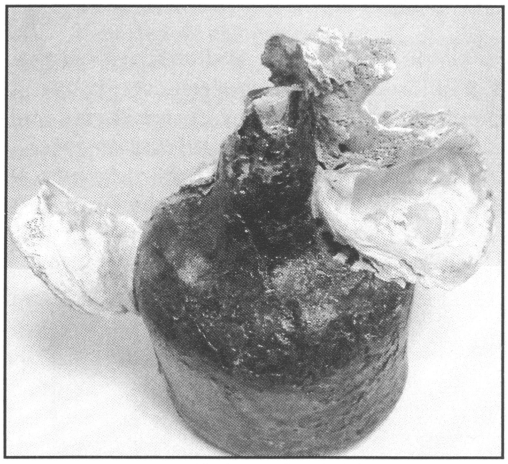


*Illustration from Harpers Weekly.*

# Alcohol Prices in Somerset County, MD, 1687/8

## [Somerset County, Maryland, Court Records, January 12, 1687/8, p. 23]

Transcribed by G. Ray Thompson, Ph.D.



*17th century spirits bottle dredged in Tangier Sound by Roland Parkinson. William Simms Collection.*

John Webb, Somerset County resident, was licensed to keep an ordinary by Somerset County Commissioners for the year beginning January 12, 1687/8. In the Somerset Judicial Records, he listed the following spirits." ***The prices of various types of alcohol are listed in the court record as follows:***

**Ffyall* wyne** per gallon sixty pounds of tobacco
**Burnt Rumme** (**Rum**) per gallon one hundred and twenty pounds of tobacco
**Rawe Rumme** (**Rum**) per gallon one hundred pounds of tobacco
**Passada*wyne** per gallon one hundred pounds of tobacco
**Madera* wyne** per gallon eighty pounds of tobacco
**Brandy wyne** per gallon one hundred and twenty pounds of tobacco
**Syder** per gallon twenty pounds of tobacco
syder and shugar per gallon twenty five pounds of tobacco
**Luime [lime ?] drinke** per gallon twenty five pounds of tobacco
**perre** (**pear**) per gallon twenty five pounds of tobacco
**shuger** per pound ten pounds of tobacco
**clarrett wyne** per gallon sixty pounds of tobacco

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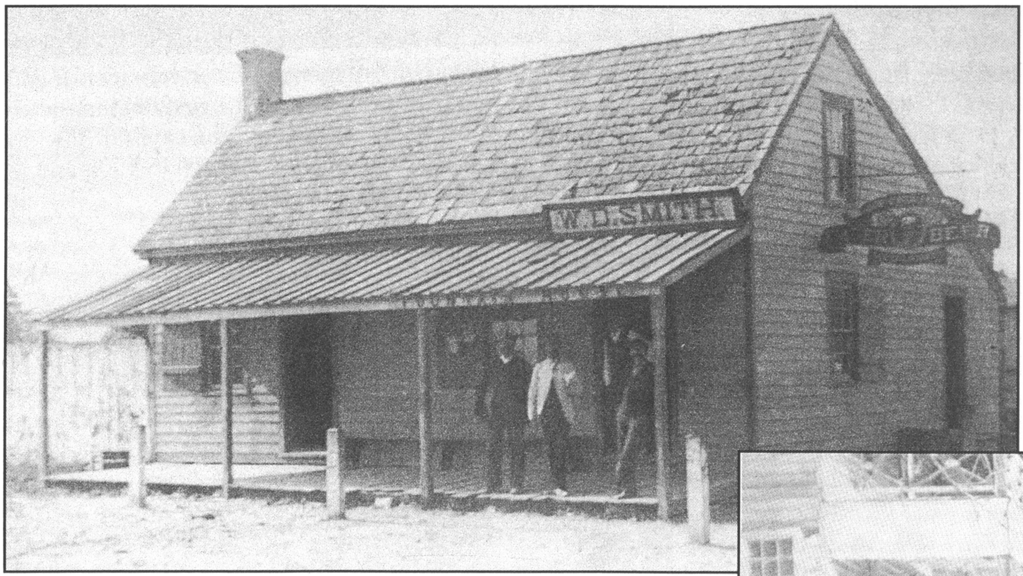
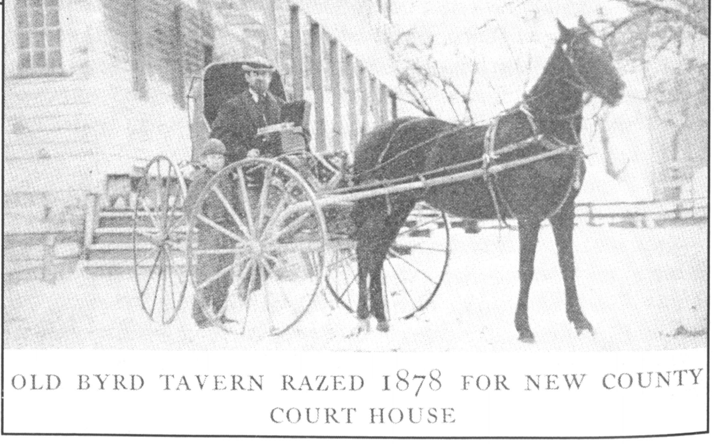
*** Denotes place of origin of the specific wine; its provenance.**



*19th century tavern of W.D. Smith known as Fountain House. East William Street, Salisbury, MD. Courtesy of the Postcard History Series Salisbury, MD, by John E. Jacob.*



OLD BYRD TAVERN RAZED 1878 FOR NEW COUNTY COURT HOUSE

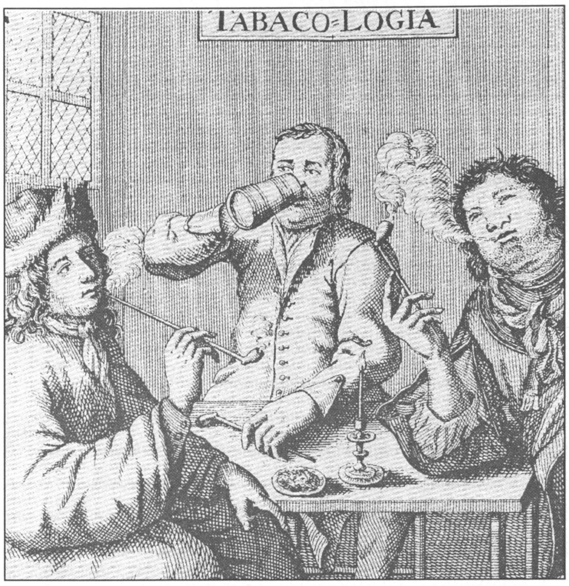
*Byrds Tavern Salisbury, MD. Arthur Leonard Collection.*

# *Innholders, Ordinary Owners, Tavern Owners and Liquor Retailers of Somerset and Worcester Counties, Maryland*

Compiled by Jackie Burkhead

| NAME | OCCUPATION/REFERENCE | LOCATION |
|---|---|---|
| Joshua Atkinson | Innholder (c. 1760) | Somerset County |
| John Atkinson | Innholder (c.1750) | Worcester |
| Daniel Burch | Ordinary (c. 1800) | Sinepuxent Inlet, Worcester County |
| John Cole | Innholder (c. 1693) | Accomack County |
| Samuel Cooper | Innholder (c. 1690) | Somerset County |
| William Coulborne | Innholder (c. 1760) | Somerset County |
| John Cox | Innholder (c. 1760) | Somerset County |
| James Derickson | Tavern House Keeper (c. 1837) | Berlin, Worcester County |
| Ambrose Dixon | Innholder (c. 1670) | Somerset County |
| John Done | Innholder (c. 1760) | Princess Anne Town, Somerset County |
| Robert Downes | Innholder (1760) | Somerset County |
| Robert Geddes | Innholder Ordinary (c. 1760) | Princess Anne Town, Somerset County |
| Robert Hopkins | Innholder (c. 1760) | Princess Anne Town, Somerset County |
| John Hust | Tavern Owner; Innholder (c. 1760) | Somerset County |
| John Ingram | Innholder (c. 1677) | Somerset County |
| Wilt Smith | Innholder (unlicensed ordinary) (c. 1663) | Somerset and Worcester County |
| John Lodor | Liquor Supplier (c. 1693) | |
| James Maynard | Innholder (c. 1692) | Somerset County (Snow Hill) |
| James Miner | Innholder (c. 1693) | Somerset County |
| John Noble | Innholder (c. 1693) | Somerset County |
| Thomas Records | Ordinary and tavern Owner (c. 1760) | Somerset County |
| Alexander Thomas Russell | Innholder (c. 1760) | Somerset County |
| St Martin's Tavern | (c. 1799) | Worcester County |
| James Selby | Tavern House owner (c. 1835) | Worcester County |
| Henry Smith | Keeping an unlicensed Ordinary (c. 1670) | Somerset County |
| Charles P. Snow | Not permitted to use ordinary license (c. 1890) | Worcester County |
| Mary Stevens | Ordinary owner; innholder (c. 1760) | Somerset County |
| Teackle Taylor | Ordinary Owner (c. 1819) | Wolf's Den |
| William Taylor | Ordinary Owner (c. 1811) | Crossroads Berlin and Herring Creek, Worcester County |
| Nathaniel Thrift | Innholder (c. 1761) | Somerset County |
| Richard Tull | (c. 1695) | Dividing Creek |
| | Election (c. 1695) | |
| | Special Court (c. 1692) | |
| | Feeding Workers at Courthouse (c. 1692) | |
| | Liquor rates (c. 1692) | |
| | Liquor Rates (c. 1692) | |
| | Child died at his house | |
| | Ordinary at Dividing Creek Courthouse (c. 1692) | |
| Richard Tull | Ordinary Petition(c. 1693) | |
| John Webb | Innholder; keep ordinary at the court house; liquor rates; license; security (c. 1690) | Somerset County |
| Andrew Whittington | Innholder (c. 1683) | Manokin or "Monokin" designates original spelling, Somerset County |
| Andrew Whittington | Innholder | Somerset County |
| Andrew Whittington | Innholder | Somerset County |
| Andrew Whittington | Innholder | Somerset County |
| Andrew Whittington | Innholder | Somerset County |
| Samuel Wilkins | Innholder; keeps ordinary; keep tavern (c. 1760) | Somerset County |
| Andrew Worthington | Innholder (c. 1692) | Somerset County |

**Jackie Burkhead, a long-time Berlin resident, enjoys historical research and has a long-standing interest in historic preservation.**



**[The article below attests to the importance of "drinke" in the lives of Somerset County residents during the Colonial period. The phrase "Perhaps no people drink less water ..." is instructive and reinforces the thesis of the article above.]**

**Published in *Virginia Gazette and Weekly*, March 13, 1788, from an article initially published in the Wilmington Gazette. Found at the Library of Congress by James L. Tull, 1994, and submitted by Nona (Tull) Ruel in November 1994 to the Lower Delmarva Genealogical Society.**

# *Longevity of the Inhabitants of Somerset County on the Eastern Shore of Maryland*

The following are the ages of 59 persons now living in two hundreds of Somerset County, Maryland. This county lies very low, and the many rivers and creeks that empty themselves into the Chesapeake Bay abound in marshes, to a considerable extent. I was once led to believe it was one of the most unhealthy counties in the world; but from what cause I know not, it appears to have more aged people in it than any place I am acquainted with. The following list will perhaps show the truth of this.

The manner of those peoples living, is nearly as follows: they rise before the sun, and generally drink one or tow drams, that is, one half peach or apple brandy, the other water with honey or sugar, and eat a piece of biscuit, then breakfast on cold meat with hominy, and as much coffee or tea as fills up the remainder of the stomach. The most of those persons I am acquainted with, and they generally labor (although not bound to do so, for they in general, have pretty good clients (?)) from breakfast to dinner, which is about 2 or 3 o'clock, they then dine upon good substantial food, such as beef, mutton, turkey, etc. Those who live near the salt water, have a great plenty of shell and other fish; their drink is cider, or strong toddy; perhaps no people drink less water. –They smoke tobacco before and after dinner, which is their last meal, and retire to bed about 8 or 9 o'clock. It is requested by the writer of this, that some gentleman will take the trouble of examining their several counties, to see whether as great a number of aged persons can be found in two hundreds thereof, throughout America.

**The following are the persons names:**
William Adams, Josephus Bell, George Bosman, Thomas Benson, Ebenezer Collins, Matthias Coaston, Joseph Cottman, Jonathan Cluff, Nathaniel Daugherty, Thomas Dixon, Isaac Dixon, John Evans, William Fleming, James Gunby, Michael Holland, Joshua Hall, Outerbridge Horsey, Thomas Handy, Spencer Harris, Alley Hickey, John Johnston, John Killum, Samuel Lawson, Elijah Linton (all upwards of 90), Benjamin Langford, John Leonard, Duncan Livingston, Isaac Moore, David Matthews, Thomas Madox, John Madox, George Miles, Samuel Miles, Samuel Outen, Teague Riggin, Jonathan Riggin, Aaron Sterling, Nathaniel Smulling, Henry Schoolfield (all 87), Stephen Tull, Jonathan Tull, Peter Taylor, John Williams, Mary Eliz. Waters, Sarah Waters, William Wheatley (all 86), Isaac Carter, Suthy Whittington, Jonathon Summers & wife (all 85)

All in Annamessex and Pocomoke Hundreds. This list was taken by an assistant collector of taxes, upwards of 70 who will now mount his horse and ride a journey of 500 miles with ease.

# *The Temperance Movement: A Review*

By Nikole Delosier

In the February 1993 edition of *Early American Life* magazine, an article by Diana Ross McCain titled "The Temperance Movement" appeared. This article gives its readers a walkthrough of America's first attempt at a Temperance movement. Starting with the end of the American Revolution to the beginning of the Civil War, McCain discusses the change from an almost primarily alcohol-based society to an anti-alcohol movement.

McCain begins her article by reviewing the importance of alcohol in post-American Revolution America. She claims that all Americans consumed some form of alcohol and inadvertently revolved their lives around it. All members of the family, including children, would have alcohol with their meals. The status of the family would determine the type of alcohol. Beer and hard cider would be on the tables of lower-class families and wine or brandy on the tables of the higher class families. Labor status did not deter alcohol consumption. At the time, alcohol was plentiful and affordable, more so than clean water, coffee and tea. It was used by doctors for medical purposes and was said to be healthier than water. Laborers also swore that the use of alcohol kept their strength up in order to do their jobs. Taverns were the centers for community life. In addition to being a location for the men to gather, taverns would hold auctions, lotteries and even court sessions. Before the start of the first temperance movement, alcohol, in all forms, was seen in a positive light. It was consumed by all classes and all ages, and created locations for community gatherings. So why and when did the idea of alcohol consumption become negative?

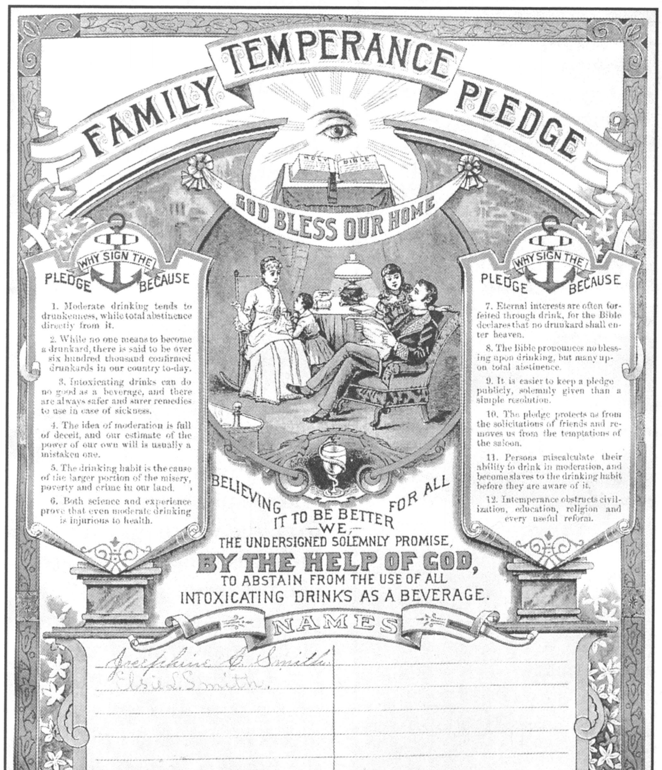
McCain answers this question by discussing two primary factors for the change in the view of alcohol. The first factor was the discovery of the negative effects alcohol had on a person's health in the early 19th century. Doctors began to state that "spirits" were in fact not helping the body last longer but increasing the risk of diseases and making existing illnesses worse. The second factor leading to the changed outlook on alcohol was the Second Great Awakening. The Second Great Awakening was a religious phenomenon that occurred in the early 19th century. It focused on the renewal of morals and religion in America. The movement called for, among other things, the abolition of alcohol. Alcohol was being linked with crimes, cruelty, poverty, brutality toward women and children, and potential damnation. Out of the Great Awakening grew the American Temperance Society (ATS), established in 1826 in Boston. The society consisted of male and female workers who tried to convince moderate drinkers to discontinue their consumption of alcohol. The ATS expanded to 8,000 local chapters.

The Temperance Movement of the early 19th century pushed forward its program of social change. The ATS was able to get laws passed in 11 states that prohibited the sale of alcohol. The organization was one of the first public outlets for women, besides the church. The movement also established the groundwork for the second Temperance Movement in the early 20th century.

According to McCain, there were three reasons for the failure of the Temperance Movement of the 19th century. The first was the difficulty in enforcing the state laws regarding prohibition. The second reason was due to the disagreements among the advocates about the methods and goals of their organization. The last reason, and most important, was that another issue took precedence over prohibition—slavery. By the late 1850s to early 1860s, the issue of the abolishment of slavery became a heated argument between the north and south, leading up to the Civil War. After the Civil War ended, McCain states that Americans went back to drinking heavily and the Temperance Movement lost support.

McCain takes her readers through the journey of the first American Temperance movement. She emphasized the once positive role that alcohol played in early American life and then explains why that role switched from positive to negative. She discusses the reasons for the first Temperance Movement and why it failed. McCain ends her article by declaring the first Temperance Movement a building block for the Temperance Movement of the early 20th century, stressing the importance of the fact that women took control of it.

**Nikole Delosier is a graduate student in history at Salisbury University working at the Nabb Research Center.**



FAMILY TEMPERANCE PLEDGE

GOD BLESS OUR HOME

WHY SIGN THE PLEDGE BECAUSE

1. Moderate drinking tends to drunkenness, while total abstinence directly from it.

2. While no one means to become a drunkard, there is said to be over six hundred thousand confirmed drunkards in our country to-day.

3. Intoxicating drinks can do no good as a beverage, and there are always safer and surer remedies to use in case of sickness.

4. The idea of moderation is full of deceit, and our estimate of the power of our own will is usually a mistaken one.

5. The drinking habit is the cause of the larger portion of the misery, poverty and crime in our land.

6. Both science and experience prove that even moderate drinking is injurious to health.

WHY SIGN THE PLEDGE BECAUSE

7. Eternal interests are often forfeited through drink, for the Bible declares that no drunkard shall enter heaven.

8. The Bible pronounces no blessing upon drinking, but many upon total abstinence.

9. It is easier to keep a pledge publicly, solemnly given than a simple resolution.

10. The pledge protects us from the solicitations of friends and removes us from the temptations of the saloon.

11. Persons miscalculate their ability to drink in moderation, and become slaves to the drinking habit before they are aware of it.

12. Intemperance obstructs civilization, education, religion and every useful reform.

BELIEVING IT TO BE BETTER FOR ALL
—WE—
THE UNDERSIGNED SOLEMNLY PROMISE,
BY THE HELP OF GOD,
TO ABSTAIN FROM THE USE OF ALL
INTOXICATING DRINKS AS A BEVERAGE.

NAMES

Josephine C. Smith
Elsi L. Smith

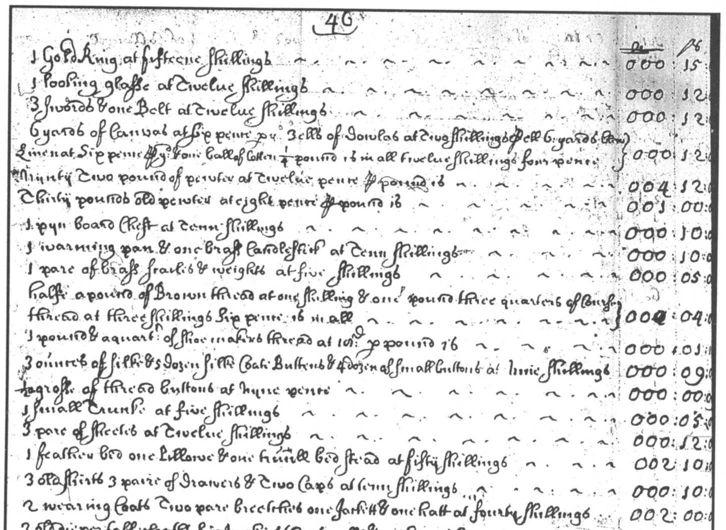
HE WILL BLESS ALL WHO WALK BEFORE HIM IN A PERFECT WAY

*Temperance pledge from 1885 Smith Family Bible. Bible Collection.*

# *Ruffs, Cuffs, Half-worn Stockings and Trumpery: An Inventory of Eastern Shore Fabrics and Apparel*

By Lindsay Maddux

Clothing, depending on the type of fabric, in the 17th and 18th centuries varied from fancy and expensive silk to inexpensive and easily attainable linsey woolsey. Of course, there were other kinds of fabrics popularly used like cotton, kersie, linen and serge. Sources at the Nabb Research Center, including Dr. G. Ray Thompson's *Early Settlers of Old Somerset, Maryland,* allow us to do a more geographically specific focus on the clothing women and men on the Eastern Shore wore in the late 1600s and early 1700s. Using inventories, we can see what was in an Eastern Shore person's possession upon death. In many of these inventories, livestock and pewter spoons were of more value to the inheritors than clothing, but evidence of the deceased's rank and personal character is shown through the fabric and clothing he or she left behind. Inventories allow us to understand fashion and clothing styles of 300 years ago, in addition to connecting with what people during that time really valued as important.



*Probate inventory of William Coulbourne. Somerset County Judicial Record 1691-1692, folio 45.*

In order to understand the framework of this article, it is important to understand the contents of an inventory and its purpose during this time period. Essentially, when a person (or less often an entire family) died, an inventory of the items they left behind was taken to assess how much that person (or family) was worth. Furthermore, the appraisers would include in these inventories an indication as to who would inherit certain items. In paging through *Early Settlers of Old Somerset, Maryland*, one will see the name(s) of many deceased persons, when they died, what material possessions they left behind and how much value these possessions had. Something odd to the "new" reader of these inventories is that the possessions were not valued in dollars or cents; rather, they were measured in pounds of tobacco or sometimes in pounds sterling. This tradition of valuing an inventory in terms of tobacco dates back to the early 1600s. John Rolfe planted tobacco in his Virginia garden in 1612, and from then on, its popularity and versatility grew exponentially. However, there is more to this simple piece of history than the popularity of tobacco; the Virginia colony also brought fashion to early America. This was possible as a world of new material could be had as fast as a ship was readied to sail across the Atlantic to the colonies.

As the first settlers came over to America from England in 1607, they brought with them English fashion. *Early American Dress* by Edward Warwick, Henry Pitz and Alexander Wyckoff asserts that the style for many men and women in the early 1600s involved layers of stiff material, despite the warm Virginia climate. Men wore doublets, which fit close to their bodies and which were often tapered at the waist, over white linen shirts. Ruffs, cuffs, stockings and even lace were also worn by men at this time. Perhaps in an attempt to adapt to the climate, men also wore a jacket-like piece of apparel called a jerkin made of leather to stop arrow penetration. Leather items like a jerkin and sometimes even breeches or other objects of clothing were often passed from generation to generation. In addition to this, men and women often wore beaver hats and cloaks for protection from the weather or for fashion. Clothing worn by women included voluminous skirts with hoops or some type of padding like bolsters underneath, a style that later became known as the petticoat. Like men, women adorned themselves with ruffs and lace, endeavoring to carry out English mode in America.

Children living in early America followed the same styles as grown men and women did, even adopting the necessity for layers of clothing in immense heat. The clothing progression in the life of a child, whether boy or girl, began with wearing long dresses and ended with a child's wearing "adult" clothing around the age of three. This grown-up style included everything from wearing doublets to having lace, ribbons and ruffs on both little boys' clothing and little girls' clothing. Interestingly enough, a child's hat is one determining factor for gender. Boys and girls would wear caps alike, but a boy could also wear a hat that resembled one much like his father's and a girl could have one that resembled female adult styles. Often these hats were whimsical in appearance.

The mid-17th century marked a turning point in the fashions of men and women. For men, no longer was the doublet popular or knickerbockers commonplace. Women's clothing styles also evolved, allowing the neck and shoulders to be bare or partially covered with a scarf. Puffy sleeves became popular and petticoats continued to be trendy for women. With both sexes, silk, lace and linen were the fabrics most often used in clothing. However, differing from the women and men previously discussed, the planters of early America used cheaper materials. Among these materials, wool, leather, kersey and broadcloth (a fine woolen cloth) were the most commonly used fabrics. Laborers, regardless of gender, wore leather or wool stockings over their silk ones, if they had any at all. As much as they could afford, people of lower economic status attempted to maintain the style set in place by the people of higher class in Virginia and those back home in England.

Relating this information to people on the Eastern Shore is fairly simple using the inventories in *Early Settlers of Old Somerset, Maryland*. Many of the styles discussed in *Early American Dress* do not occur in the inventories of people on the Eastern Shore; however, some fabrics are mentioned. Of the 316 personal inventories between 1665 and 1700 transcribed in *Early Settlers of Old Somerset, Maryland*, four have been picked for the variety and diversity of clothing mentioned. Among these are the inventories of two couples who died at the same time, and one merchant and one colonel. The inventory of the first couple, James and Sarah Jones, lists no clothing (except for one pair of new shoes), but includes a generous amount of fabric left behind. The fabric—kersey, broad cloth, penistone, cotton, dimity, linsey woolsey, canvas, serge, linen and dowlas—were all common in the 17th century. The Joneses had 25 yards of kersey, a fine wool material, and three yards of linsey woolsey, a material that was coarse in texture. An interesting point about linsey woolsey is that it was also used for everyday clothing and for slave clothing, especially in later generations.

Serge, a fabric mentioned in the inventory of James and Sarah Jones, was woven in a diagonal pattern of either wool or silk thread, or even a combination of both. Women in early America often wore aprons of this fabric for everyday use. Women also used this material combined with linsey woolsey in cloaks, although those who wore this type of clothing were usually ones who lived in rural areas. Dimity, another fabric in the Joneses inventory, is one that was used not only in Colonial times, but is still in use today. At first, this fabric was fine and ribbed and made from cotton. A similar form of this, in use today, tends to be more sheer and double-threaded. Linen, or a variation of linen like dowlas, was worn by both men and women in the forms of cuffs and shirts. From this inventory, it appears the Joneses' used canvas and dowlas for their bedding. Just like dimity, canvas was used in the 1600s and is still being used today. Also, canvas in their time period and canvas today are made of the same materials—hemp, flax or cotton. Penistone, the last fabric on the list, was a coarse wool material made in England and exported to America for the Colonial market.

The inventory of David and Jane Williams in 1678 illustrates the same types of materials found in the Joneses' inventory. Although this merchant family was tragically murdered by Indians, the Nabb Research Center has an inventory for the whole family, a rare occurrence. We can tell that Jane followed popular English style because she had in her inventory a "paragon bodice," a plain or embroidered bodice that she might have used every day. Prominent women on the Eastern Shore, such as Ann Smith, who died in 1688, often wore such bodices, making them a status symbol. Jane also had vermillion petticoats, a waistcoat and a few aprons. During this time, vermillion was a scarlet-colored material made out of cotton. In addition to this, the Williams family had penistone, osnaburg, kersey, serge, canvas, dimity and linen fabrics. David had one pair of underwear, one pair of breeches, two petticoats, one shirt, a coat, a suit as well as other tools, fishing hooks and a musket. Although the names of the Williams' children are unknown, the inventory describes the clothing of these children who were also massacred. A girl had one white suit, and a boy had one shirt and a pair of breeches. Indistinguishable items are ones like the yards of fabric, which all the family would have shared as well as children's linens, bedclothes, two hoods, braid, ribbons and two hats. From *Early American Dress*, we know that children and adults alike wore hats, and since the inventory does not differentiate hats, these could have belonged to any member of the family. The fact that the Williams family had ribbons in the inventory agrees with *Early American Dress* as it states that ribbons were "likely to appear on garments in almost any place." In actuality, male planters wore ribbons as a marker of age, but women at the time also used ribbons as decorative touches; therefore, it is not known to whom these ribbons belonged.

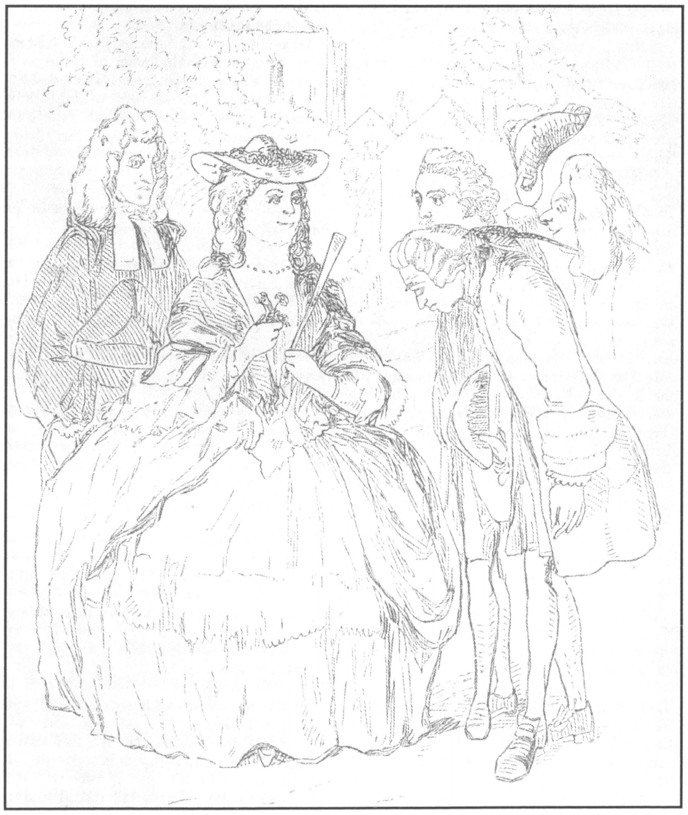
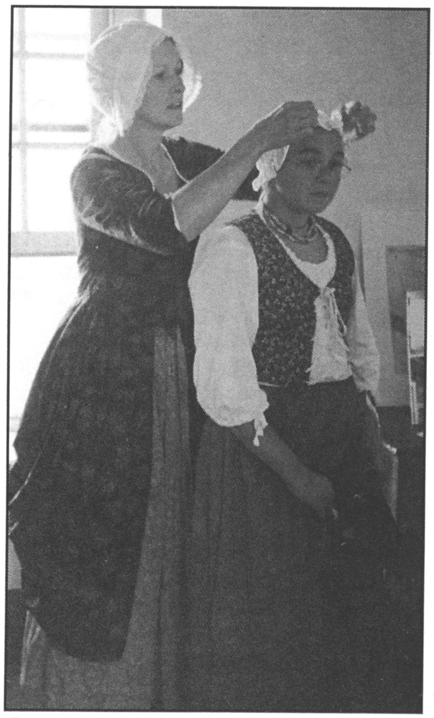


*Illustration from Harpers Weekly. Wicomico Historical Society Collection*

One of the largest inventories in Somerset County belonged to Archibald Ereskin. The clothing described in his inventory helps us understand the types of clothing worn in the late 17th century on the Eastern Shore. At this Scottish merchant's death in 1686, he had in his possession several different kinds of fabric and clothing. The clothing left behind included one pair of underwear, a cloak, four hats, four shirts, four waist coasts, four pairs of stockings, three pairs of gloves, seven neck scarves and 14 capes. Something that has not only been evident in Ereskin's inventory, but also in the inventories of the Williams and Jones families, is the recurrence of items of clothing described as worn out or old. Another important observation is the seemingly low value of the clothes and other items in the inventory. Oddly, the appraisers, who were usually friends of the deceased, appraised the items at a low value. This concept is difficult to wrap around our 21st century minds, but the idea was that all the funds from the deceased would go toward paying off their debts. With this in mind, it is no wonder the appraisers wanted to label the items at a low cost. In other words, they were looking out for their deceased friends.

In addition to these articles of clothing, Ereskin owned various animal hides, including leather, deer skins, raccoon skins, small fox skins and mink. This inventory also shows that he owned seven guns, so it might be possible to make a connection between the guns and the animal hides. Since Ereskin had many furs, guns and various other items in his inventory, we can assume that he traded and bartered materials. We know that he had more than the usual amount of clothing, suggesting that he was well off or traded for those clothes. Also, the inventory does not mention anything belonging to a woman, so if Ereskin did not have a wife to make him these clothes, we can assume he bought or made them himself. Types of material he owned ranged from kersey to muslin. Muslin, a cloth we have not encountered before, was a fine cotton material usually woven in a plain pattern. At the time, muslin was used for various types of clothing like men's underwear and even children's cravats. At this time, a cravat was a very costly neck cloth, much like an expensive scarf today. Other fabrics shown in this inventory include black ribbon, dowlas and wool. Among the various clothing and material owned by Ereskin, the most common fabric was kersey, ranging in texture from coarse to very coarse.

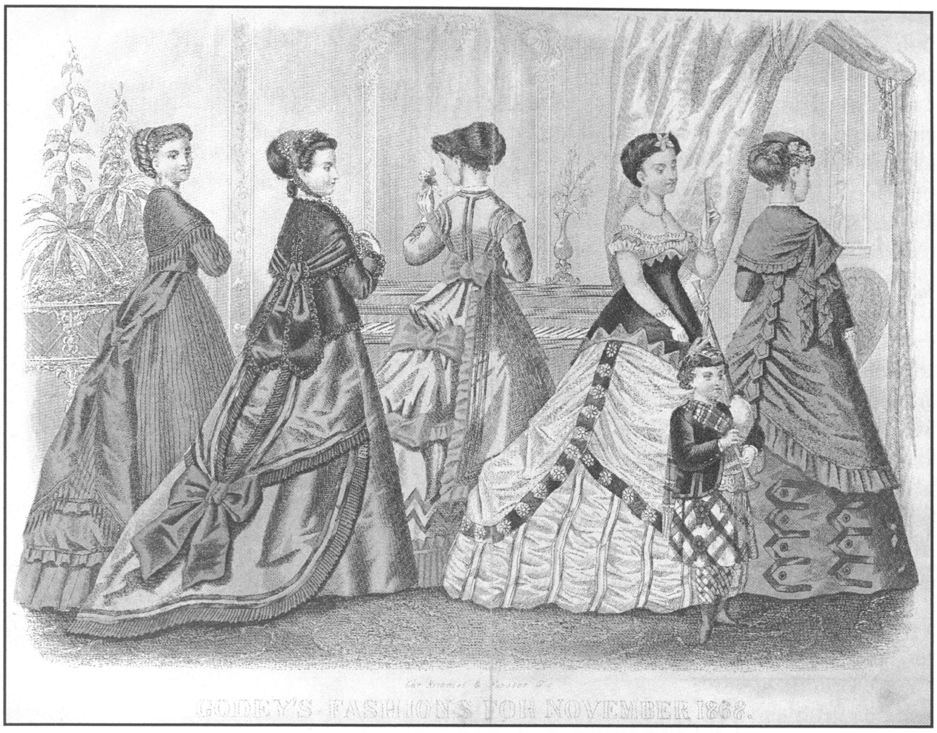


*Reproductions of typical 18th century women's clothing. G. Ray Thompson Collection.*

Thus far, we have looked at the inventories of two couples and one man, all of which have given information about the types of fabric and clothing used by common people in the 1600s. However, looking at the inventory of Colonel William Colbourne, a man of influence and rank, will provide an additional perspective on life at this time. The first item of clothing owned by Colonel Colbourne we came across was a belt that held three swords. He also owned three shirts, three pairs of underwear, two caps, two coats, two pairs of breeches, one jacket, one hat and one cloth waistcoat. Among the fabrics, the deceased left behind were dowlas, cotton, blue linen, silk, canvas and Virginia cloth. Interestingly enough, Colbourne owned Virginia cloth, a material that was homespun and typically worn by laborers or slaves. Colbourne also had various sewing materials, like brown thread and silk coat buttons. Comparing this inventory to the one of Archibald Ereskin, it appears that both men owned a similar amount of clothing and fabric. It is possible to make a distinction between the personal values of these men, as Colonel Courbourne had more expensive items like a gold ring, various livestock and many tools upon his death in 1690, whereas, Ereskin's inventory consists mainly of store goods.

Revisiting our hopes of understanding life on the Eastern Shore through possessions in inventories, we must evaluate two things: how much clothing/fabric was found in each inventory and to what types of people did these inventories belong. The reason for doing the latter is to make sure the inventory sample is equal, or in other words, to ensure the most complete and realistic view of life on the Eastern Shore. The first inventory viewed, that of James and Sarah Jones, gives the perspective of what types of possessions two adults would have had in the 1670s. The inventory of the next couple, David and Jane Williams, allows us to see what items a family had during this same time period. Archibald Ereskin's inventory dated 1686, allows us to examine the belongings a single, prosperous man would own. Moving to Colonel Coulbourne's inventory, this document shows us the types of clothing and fabric used by men in positions of rank. Although these inventories do offer current readers a glimpse into the fashions of long-deceased Eastern Shore people, it would help to quickly compare other inventories found in *Early Settlers of Old Somerset, Maryland* for a broader view. Simply glancing at the inventories, one sees some of the same fabrics and clothing again and again. Feathers, although not considered fabric, were commonly used to stuff beds and pillows and were a commonality between poorer and richer subjects. They could also be used for trimming a hat. Ordinary fabrics used include cotton, wool, linen, canvas and Virginia cloth. Variations of these fabrics, like kersey and worsted, were made from wool and also frequently used. Inventories also mentioned thread and buttons, and most even had woolen and linen spinning wheels. As far as clothing for people of the 17th century, many only owned a hat, suit, coat and a pair of shoes. Some, like James Atkinson (1699), did not have any piece of clothing or fabric in their inventories at all. In reality, it was an accepted fact that some individuals had only one or two outfits, a truth that seems odd to persons today who could own upwards of 50 or 100 outfits over a period of several years.

Of the four inventories studied, some had more clothing and fabric than other items. However, in the Jones inventory, the ratio of fabric to other items was almost equal. This could simply be that guns and other items were more expensive and harder to obtain than fabric. Also, in the inventory of David and Jane Williams, the couple owned upon death many articles of clothing and various amounts of fabric—possibly due to their status as merchants. It is important to remember that all the


GODEY'S FASHIONS FOR NOVEMBER 1868.

*A later period in fashion. Godey's Lady's Book November 1868. Josiah Bayly Collection.*

members of this family died at the same time and had at least four members, meaning more bodies to clothe. Archibald Ereskin also had more clothing and fabric than he did other items. Shockingly, Ereskin had more fabric in his inventory than most of the pre-1700s inventories. However, while Colonel William Coulbourne owned thread, silk buttons, coats, breeches and other types of clothing, the number of guns, livestock and other items outweighs the amount of clothing/fabric.

In order to study the changes in style that took place over time, we can make a cross-generational examination of members of the same family. By reviewing inventories dated 1684, 1692 and 1822 of these relatives, we can see how over time, the amount of clothing owned changes too. In addition to this, the three inventories allow for more accuracy in terms of style and clothing because the men were from the same area in Somerset County, Maryland. If one of the men had lived in the trend-setting center of the world, London, there would be fewer points of similarity among the three. The earliest inventory, that of William Ennis Sr., had a limited supply of fabric and no clothing. Canvas and linsey woolsey were the only types of fabric he had. They were used to make curtains and valances. However, the inventory of his son, William Ennis Jr., lists not only more possessions overall, but also a larger, more diverse collection of clothing and fabric. At death, William Ennis Jr. owned four coats, three pairs of breeches, a black hat, a leather belt, a pair of cotton stockings, a pair of cotton stockings, two muslin scarves, one shirt, two silk handkerchiefs and a pair of underwear. The detailed descriptions here prove to be a transition from the lack of clothing in William Ennis Sr.'s inventory to the more descriptive clothing in the inventory of his descendant. Also interesting in William Ennis Jr.'s inventory is the presence of feminine attire: a petticoat, two gowns, a lace cap, a pair of worsted stockings, a pair of gloves from Pennsylvania, hosiery, a black silk hood and a lace scarf. These articles of clothing in Ennis's inventory suggest that his wife died around the time of his death. Additionally, this inventory shows fabrics like cotton, muslin, lace, linen, silk, serge, linsey woolsey, wool and satin ribbon. Although the Ennis men died only 12 years apart, the amount of fabric and clothing alone substantiates changes between the inventories in terms of wealth and what was more readily available. The more recently deceased William Ennis (1822) had much more clothing than William Ennis Sr. but had nearly the same amount as William Ennis Jr. At his death, he owned a great coat with a cape, a blue coat, a pair of pantaloons, a green vest, a black coat, a marseilles vest, two linen shirts, a striped linen vest, two striped linen coats, a cravat, one white fur hat, a pair of shoes, a pocketbook and a pair of nankeen pantaloons. There are several things to note here in addition to the large amount of clothing. Notice how the inventory is more descriptive, something the inventories from the 1600s and early 1700s were not. Also, the colors from the 1822 inventory are much more vibrant than earlier ones, especially the green fabric, which was largely non-existent in *Early Settlers of Old Somerset, Maryland.* Also interesting is that Ennis (1822) owned nankeen, a yellow cotton fabric imported from China. This simply shows that imported items were becoming more easily accessible for common folk during the 1800s. The material known as Marseilles was a cotton cloth named after the city in France. This is also a testament to the changing times as this fabric would have been largely unattainable in the 1600s.

Some of the fabric names used in the 17th century inventories are little known today. We can turn to Kenneth L. Smith's *Estate Inventories, How to Use Them* to assist in identifying certain fabrics. Some definitions for fabrics have already been given, but others have yet to be done. One of these is osnaburg, a material that appeared in the Williams' inventory. Smith's work simply tells us that osnaburg is a coarse and inexpensive linen fabric; however, further research tells us this material got its name from the German state of Hanover—its place of origin and the home of Prince Osnaburg. This fabric's texture could range from coarse to fine and could also be found bleached or unbleached. The fact that David and Jane Williams had this in their inventory suggests that, as merchants, they traded for this imported fabric. Other fabrics like osnaburg were imported to America as well. In actuality, the only fabrics worn by subjects of this article that were made at home were linen and wool. Wool during this time period was so precious that England regulated its export. This could explain the reason many Eastern Shore inventories included wool and linen spinning wheels, suggesting people here manufactured their own wool and linen. Other fabrics, like dowlas and penistone were made in Europe but crossed the Atlantic to end up in the homes of all the subjects researched in this article. Silk, another fabric that appeared in Colonel Coulbourne's inventory, was originally exported to America from England. Also, silk was imported in much smaller amounts than linen, which was imported by the thousands of yards. Interestingly enough, in the middle of the 17th century, there was a law passed prohibiting the use of silk for anything except hoods, scarves or ribbons. If any other silk pieces were found, they were confiscated and sent back to England. Despite this edict, Coulbourne had silk buttons at his death.

It is interesting to see the connections not only between studying individuals and what they owned, but also among the various inventories themselves. By studying inventories, we can see what type of clothing and what fabrics people on the Eastern Shore had readily available to them. Also, from the importation of costly fabrics, we can see that certain people like Colonel William Coulbourne were better off than those who had no clothing or fabric in their inventories at their deaths. The comparison between how little some people had then to what people have now is obvious. While early Americans subsisted on basic needs, this can most definitely not be said of people today. Perhaps for some, connecting with the past and comparing inventories allows them to realize more about themselves.

**Lindsay Maddux is an English major interning at the Nabb Research Center.**

*Illustration from Harpers Weekly. Wicomico Historical Society Collection.*

# *Nannie Rider Jackson*

By George Chevallier

*(The original oil painting of Mrs. Jackson, part of the Wicomico Historical Society Collection, along with that of her husband Elihu, is displayed in the lobby of the Wicomico County Free Library on South Division Street in Salisbury, Maryland.)*

*Nannie Rider Jackson.*

Born on August 10, 1849, Nannie Rider was the daughter of Dr. William H. Rider, whose residence was Honeysuckle Lodge in Salisbury, Maryland. Honeysuckle Lodge still stands on the east side of Camden Avenue and the south side of Tony Tank Lake, south of Salisbury. The Rider family cemetery is adjacent to the property.

Early in her life, in 1866, a year before she married Elihu E. Jackson, Rider was invited to attend the organizational meeting of a new Methodist Church which became Trinity Methodist Church. As the only woman in attendance, the men elected her to be secretary and keep the minutes. She remained faithful to Trinity Church all her life, and later convinced her husband, a former governor of Maryland, to build a new church building in 1904. The "new" Trinity Church located on Division Street near Route 50 in Salisbury remains an active church.

In 1913, Mrs. Jackson donated funds for the construction of the Jackson Memorial Building on the corner of Broad and North Division streets as a memorial to her late husband, who had died in 1907. Originally built as a YMCA, Trinity recently completed a $1.2 million renovation project on the building. It should continue to stand as a loving tribute to her husband for many years to come.

Noah Harrison Rider, Nannie's brother, paid tribute to Nannie during her lifetime. While in Alabama looking after his brother-in-law's lumber interests, he gave the mill town that was built around the local mill the name Riderville. Another town was named Riderwood to honor their family name.

The Jacksons' residence at the corner of North Division and Isabella streets in Salisbury was an imposing 40-room mansion on 23 acres named "The Oaks." Mrs. Jackson sold it for $100,000 in 1925 to an out-of-town buyer who sub-divided it for residences. The only existing reminder of the grandeur of the property is a remnant of the brick wall along Isabella Street that once surrounded the entire property.

Nannie Rider Jackson died on October 3, 1914, and is interred beside her husband in Parsons Cemetery in Salisbury.

**George Chevallier, current president of the Wicomico Historical Society, is an Eastern Shore native with strong ties to many local families. He often writes on Salisbury topics and is a much-sought-after speaker.**

# *Maryland's First Woman Mayor*

By Nancy Pierce

*Anna Matilda Brown.*
*Frank Pierce III Collection.*

This is a narrative of the life of, Anna Matilda Brown, grandmother of my husband Frank H. Pierce III. Anna was a woman whom I came to know and love during the years after my marriage to her grandson in 1952. It was a great surprise for me to learn that she had been the first woman to be elected mayor in the State of Maryland and perhaps the second in the United States. The narrative contains research into Brown's papers and a bit from the Internet and from oral history.

When in 1934, Anna Matilda Brown accepted the presidency of the Town Commissioners of Princess Anne, the county seat of Somerset County on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, she knew her work was cut out for her. She was appointed to fill out the term of George Colburn Jr., who had resigned.

After she familiarized herself with the state of affairs under her authority, she informed the citizens of Princess Anne that expenses had to be cut. The Rotary Taxpayers Committee presented a tentative budget to the commissioners in which reductions in expenditures would not have a detrimental effect on the function of the government. President Brown and the commissioners received the taxpayers' recommendations in the town offices on the second floor of the firehouse. In an article in the Somerset County newspaper, *Marylander and Herald*, under the bold headline "Commissioners Slash Budget," items were listed that would be affected: stationery supplies 50 percent over former years or to $175 annually, clerk's salary to remain the same, commissioners' salaries to remain at $75 annually, the Police and Street departments to remain at $2,400 instead of the $2,100 recommended by the Tax Committee. The largest single savings came from street lighting and pumping water, 40 percent of the town's income. Using 200-watt bulbs for street lighting instead of 250-watt bulbs saved $700 a year. The Fire Department appropriation had to remain flexible depending on how many fires had to be extinguished per year and how far the engines were driven into the countryside. The average income of the town from water rents and taxes was $11,000 per year. The town had been spending around $1,500 a year more than collections, so when Brown helped change this deficit into a surplus, there was great enthusiasm for her to continue in office. She ran unopposed.

She said, "If elected, I will exert every effort to give Princess Anne an economical and efficient administration." This promise she kept all the years she held office. It is interesting to compare the hundreds and thousands of dollars she dealt with in her small-town, Depression-era budget with the thousands, millions and sometimes billions of today's dollars.

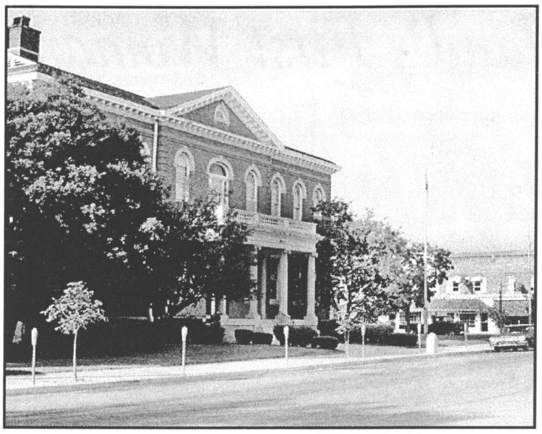
In August 1941, Brown again addressed the Rotarians of Princess Anne and listed all of the improvements she wished to see enacted: streets curbed and guttering, doing away with disgraceful open ditches, a public parking area near stores to relieve congestion on Saturday nights when many farmers came to town to shop, public drinking fountains, traffic lights at both ends of town and on Prince William and Somerset avenues to slow traffic on Route 13, which at that time flowed straight through town. One of her strongest recommendations was a public swimming pool, so that children would not have to learn to swim in the treacherous waters of local rivers. Except for the pool, all of her suggested improvements were achieved and have been maintained to this day.

In expressing concern over Princess Anne's decrease in population, she praised the livability of her hometown with its mild and healthful climate, its schools, its several denominations of churches, and, according to an article in the Baltimore Sun, in addition to the Rotary, the town then had an effective Volunteer Fire Company, a businessmen's association, the Oliver T. Beauchamp Post of the American Legion, a Masonic Lodge, a town library and a tax rate of only 75 cents which supported a water system, a sewerage system, fire and police protection, good street paving, electric lights, and adequate schools. Gone is the 75 cent tax rate and the old library which has been replaced by a new state-of-the-art library with more functions and equipment than Brown could have imagined.

Anna Matilda Ball was born near Princess Anne to the family of Francis Ball who worked agriculture as a science. He was known to have corresponded with Luther Burbank in California on the subject of grafting. Burbank had developed the grapefruit. Anna had one sister, Ethel, and five brothers. The Ball family in Princess Anne could have grown into a comfortable clan for the future of the entire family except for one day of tragedy. Four of Anna's brothers drowned in the tidal waters of the Manokin River, each trying to save the other until all were overcome. The boys' parents never recovered. Ethel much later became a long-distance swimmer and the tragedy was the impetus for Anna recommending the building of a town pool. The event could have affected Francis Ball's decision against Anna's taking nurse's training.

However, Anna was determined to have a working life. Shortly after graduation, she left school and went to work in the grocery and butcher shop of George W. Brown of Princess Anne. She helped him manage his store and eventually his household as his wife. His first wife had died, leaving him with several children to raise. They came to call the new Mrs. Brown, Mom 'Til. Her new home was the large, white house opposite the Manokin Presbyterian Church. That was where George and Anna's only child, Lenora, was born. George's youngest daughter, Adalyn, then 15, treated the new sister like her own baby doll. That 'baby doll' became the mother of my husband Frank.

George Brown was a rather formidable person in town. Two years following their marriage in 1904, he was appointed high sheriff; he was 22 years older than Anna. However, she was not overawed, but when she buried the failed "first cake" she baked for him in the marsh, she did not enjoy the teasing when he discovered the episode. Throughout their life together, he was always "Mr. Brown" to her.


*Courthouse Princess Anne, MD. Frank Pierce III Collection.*

Neither she nor Aunt Liza, the family cook, could predict just how many places to set at the dinner table. If Mr. Brown met someone interesting who happened into town, he would invariably be invited to dinner. During the construction of the Methodist Church, the builder stayed in their home. Frank and I inherited one of the cement moldings he gave to his hosts in appreciation of their hospitality.

Mom 'Til soon became aware that Aunt Liza needed an assistant in the kitchen. She hired Lucretia who benefitted from her apprenticeship to become a really good cook who knew how to rule her domain. As the years rolled by, Lucretia served the family in different ways. When my husband Frank was born, she became what we today would call his nanny. When his mother Lenora visited her half-sister Addie near Washington, DC, Lucretia came with her to attend the little boy. Much later, after her tenure as president of the Town Commissioners, Mom 'Til opened a restaurant in part of her home, the green house, next to the white house which had been sold. The restaurant was appropriately named the "Willows" for the border of willows that drooped down toward the Manokin River. Lucretia was part of the staff. Patrons really enjoyed the food and the atmosphere, mainly on Sundays, even when they had to face a crowded parking area and wait to be seated. In time, however, Mrs. Brown closed the Willows Restaurant, as a business decision. After that, Lucretia worked for a time at the historic George Washington Hotel, three blocks away. Families in town vied for her services. However, she seemed always to have time to help the Browns and the Pierces stuff a Thanksgiving turkey, or with a party celebrating my marriage to Frank, Mom 'Til's parties and funerals. She offered great support at the funeral of Frank's father who passed away following a long illness in 1952 only months before his son and I were wed.

Now, back to Mrs. Brown, "Mayoress," as the Baltimore Sun named her, who still had more challenges to face in her life as well as in her position. During her first term in office, the Eastern Shore faced a devastating hurricane bringing the waters of the Manokin River into the Brown's home, which was then moved to a higher elevation. They rented a house in town. Somehow, either before or after that horrendous event, Mom 'Til and her sister Ethel found time to take young Frank to the World's Fair in New York. Frank's grandmother always found time for him. She read history with him on Saturday evenings and started him off on his hobby of making model airplanes. In later years, his grandfather George Brown introduced him to the joys and adventure of a usually calm Manokin. Each spring he would help him launch a small rowboat into the river, always being careful to check its seaworthiness. It was an event happily anticipated by the grandson and at least one or two of his friends.

The world beyond small town America became less and less idyllic especially along the coasts. During World War II, the Shore became part of the defense against enemy attack from the air and ocean where Nazi submarines lurked. An army unit encamped in a field behind the high school from which it moved to a reactivated Civilian Conservation Corps camp at Westover. Rationing and blackouts were observed. *The Baltimore Sun* carried a photograph showing Mrs. Brown dropping "the first aluminum pan into a bin" with leaders from the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts looking on, under the headline "Shore Mayoress Gives Aluminum for Defense." Following her lead, young Frank spent most Saturdays dutifully, wearily collecting paper and scrap metal for the defense effort. His father Frank H. Pierce Jr. served as an air raid warden when he was not on a business trip. A few years ago, the son, Frank H. Pierce III, published a very detailed account of that period in his memoir *A Boy's Eye View of World War II and Other Reminiscences of Maryland's Eastern Shore.*

The soldiers were mobilized to the front in Europe and were replaced at Camp Somerset by German prisoners of war. When another hurricane brought down trees and tree limbs in town, Mrs. Brown, as president of the Commissioners, hired prisoners at a modest salary to clean up the mess including the Manokin Presbyterian Church cemetery across from her house.

Except for the trip to the World's Fair, neither travel nor vacations appeared to be part of Mom 'Til's life. Through books she traveled. Her relaxation away from duties with the Commissioners appeared to be accomplished through different kinds of handiwork. She finished a set of ladder-back chairs to match the old oak table where she and Ethel had done their homework and on which they made an ink stain which has since that time served as a reminder of their youthful labors. That table and chairs have served as our own dining room set for many years now. She painted colorful flowers on Coca Cola trays; I have some. When she sat in her favorite wing chair to visit with us, her hands were always occupied in some form of needlework. One product of her industry hangs over our living room mantle. It is a large, framed tapestry depicting a country lane leading up to a white cottage with autumn leaves blowing all around. It is a treasure.

At the end of her tenure in office in 1948 and following the closing of the Willows, Mom 'Til considered forming a sand and gravel company. But for the drowning of her brothers, she might have had the backing to do it. However, her working life continued at the local country club, and I knew her as cashier at the English Grill across Route 13 from then Salisbury State College. Somehow both the wait-staff and managers learned to call her Mom 'Til and often sought her advice.

She lived to know her one great-grandson, Frank H. Pierce IV, and briefly his baby sister, Marie Asselia Pierce. Mom 'Til passed in 1959 shortly after Marie's christening. She died quietly in bed, perhaps with a smile of satisfaction knowing that she and her friend Lucretia had that evening completed plans for a bridge luncheon.

After his mother died in 1991, Frank often bemoaned the fact that after 300 years of Browns, Lucretia Harris was the only family he had left on the Eastern Shore or anywhere else for that matter. When in Princess Anne for a reunion luncheon with his high school class, we would often stop by her apartment to visit and hear her stories about his family. Like an echo from Mom 'Til, she would always have a needlework project on her lap. More than once, she told the story about how Mrs. Brown came to hire her. She volunteered as a substitute for her older sister to dress a turkey. After watching Lucretia and the bird seeming to chase each other around the chicken yard, it became obvious to Mrs. Brown that she would have to take over. After all, she was a farm girl. Lucretia lived to be over a 100. Frank passed in 2006. I place flowers regularly on the Pierce lot in the Manokin Church cemetery, and I visit the Brown and Ball lots, but memories of Mayoress Anna Matilda Brown and Frank remain mainly in my heart and in my home.

**Nancy Pierce lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, and is a freelance author and novelist. Her previous credits include researched articles for the Smithsonian Institute and the Historical Society of Washington, DC.**

**Editor's note: In August 2008. Lucretia Harris, noted housekeeper and cook, died at the age of 100 at Manokin Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Princess Anne, Maryland, where she had resided for three years. A scholarship had been established at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in Princess Anne in her name.**

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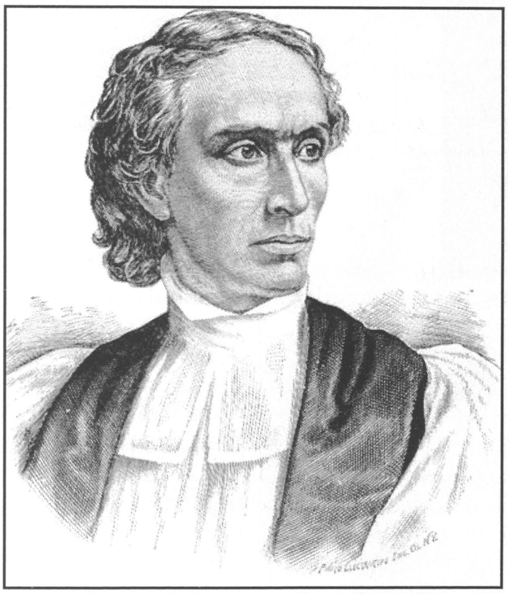
# *Sources Found in the Archives of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland*

By Mary Olive Klein



*William Rollinson Whittingham, Fourth Bishop of Maryland, 1805-1879*

Before the Episcopal Diocese of Easton was formed in 1867, the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland included all of the Eastern Shore, as well as Washington, DC, and the four southern counties, which now make up the Diocese of Washington. The Archives of the Diocese of Maryland, located in Baltimore, therefore houses thousands of documents that are of interest to historians, family researchers, architects, church historians and Eastern Shore enthusiasts. Naturally, the vast majority of these documents are church related, but there are some surprises among the treasures housed in the archives.

One outstanding collection is the Callister Papers. Numbering several hundred items, these papers are of great importance for the social, economic, natural and cultural history of the Eastern Shore in the mid-18th century. They consist mainly of the correspondence, business records and literary manuscripts of Henry Callister (c. 1716-1768), a merchant in Queen Anne's, Talbot and Kent counties, and of his wife, Sarah Trippe Callister (1731-1805). Included is correspondence with prominent members of Eastern Shore families, as well as records from Sarah Callister's school. The Queen Anne's County Historical Society has a photocopy of the Callister Papers, but the originals are housed at the Diocesan Archives and are often easier to read than copies.

Although parishes keep their own registers of baptisms, marriages and burials, the archives does have confirmation records, since they are bishops' papers. The most complete records are those of William R. Whittingham, bishop from 1840-1879. He kept a leather-bound notebook filled with the names of everyone he confirmed. He also recorded an inventory of the names of families in each parish as soon as he came into the diocese from New York. Another inventory was sent to each parish asking them to describe their church buildings, among other things, which can give insight into the ecclesiastical architecture of the area.

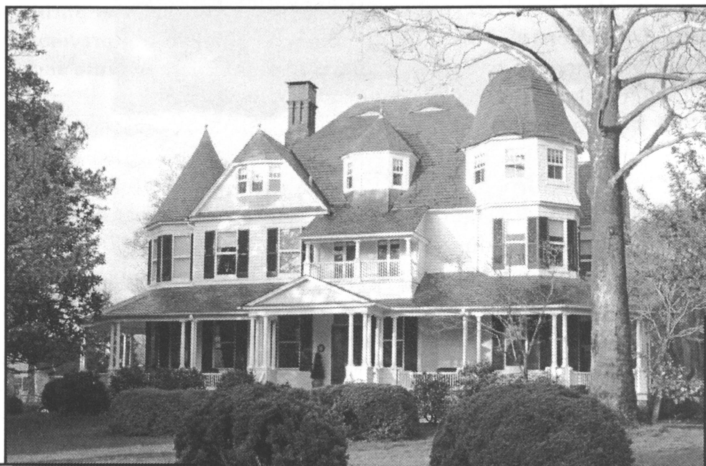
Records of clergy and parishes are also kept at the archives, as well as early bishops' correspondence with clergy and lay leaders of parishes. Of course, many topics arise in these letters, including slavery, the role of women, and the state of parish resources, travel and historical events. Each year parishes are required to submit an annual parochial report, and for many years these were published in the *Annual Convention Journal*. Garrulous clergy often included interesting tidbits of parish information in those reports. Journals of the Bishops of Maryland described visits to parishes, complete with details of ferry journeys, weather and lodging. There are numerous kinds of incidental records in the archives that can shed light on a variety of research topics, as well as family and church history.

Although Baltimore sometimes seems worlds away from the Eastern Shore, time spent visiting the archives may prove valuable for researchers.

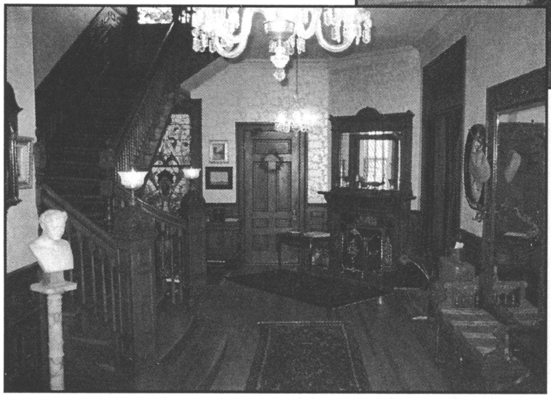
**Archivist Mary Klein, earned both her B.A. and M.A. in history from Salisbury University, and has a special interest in the Eastern Shore. The archives are located in Baltimore, very near the Johns Hopkins University campus, and are generally open Mondays from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Phone is 410-467-1399 and e-mail is archives@episcopalmaryland.org. Please contact the archivist for further information or to set up an appointment.**

# *The Governor John Walter Smith House*

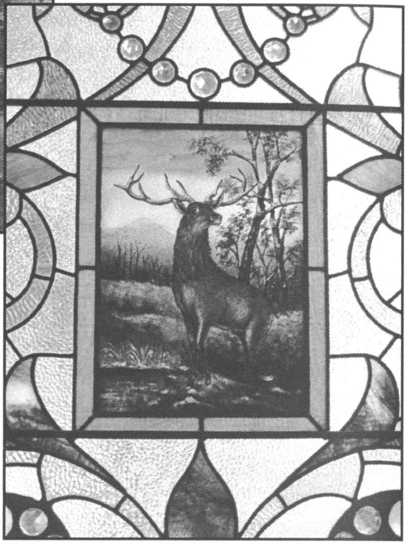
by Donna Messick



*Governor John Walter Smith House.*



*Entrance hall Governor John Walter Smith House. Photos courtesy of Kemp Wills.*



*Stained glass window in Governor John Walter Smith House.*

Situated on a sizeable one-and-a-half-acre lot in the residential section of historic Snow Hill, Maryland, is the Queen Anne two-and-a-half-story, 8,000-square-foot Governor John Walter Smith House. A prominent and wealthy Worcester County businessman and landowner, John Walter Smith served Maryland in several state and national political offices, and his home was built with entertaining in mind. Designed by Baltimore architect Jackson C. Gott and built in 1889-90 for Smith, the home is an impressive architectural landmark listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Retaining its interior millwork, a 17 x 24 dining room with original furniture, grain-painted pocket doors, stick-and-ball fretwork, 8-foot tall first floor windows and 11 fireplaces, the expansive home boasts 20 rooms, numerous towers and bays and a wrap-around porch.

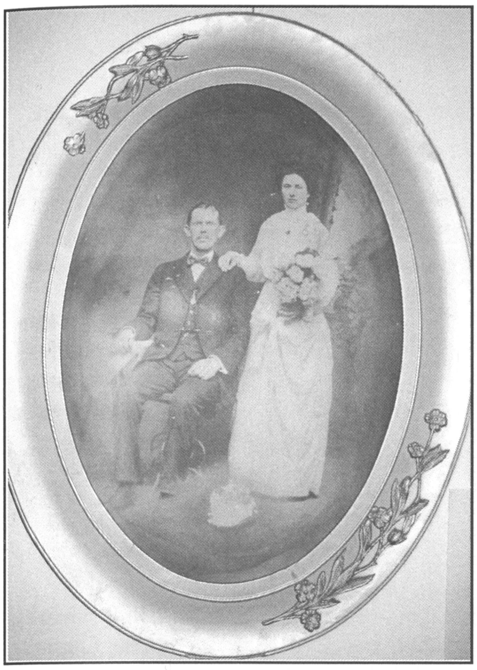
When built, the home was equipped with the latest innovations, including an internal plumbing system, coal-fired central heating system, bathtub, and a "water closet," along with two pantries and a service wing with separate staircase. The interior retains many of its original features and finishes. The double-door entrance hall includes high, paneled oak wainscoting, sliding pocket doors, paneled newel posts with carved post heads on the stairs, and a corner fireplace with an elaborate period mantel, reddish-pink hearth tiles, and decorative firebox and surround. Striking fireplaces, complete with the original tiles, Victorian mantels and overmantels, are found in several of the rooms, along with original wallpaper and ceiling decorations. One of the most memorable features in this beautiful home is the rare array of original, stained glass windows. Liberally used throughout the first floor rooms, Art-Noveau style windows feature animals depicted in the center panels.

Originally built by Smith on land purchased from George Upshur, the property passed from Smith to his daughter Georgie Smith Foster after his death in 1925. John Byrd owned the home from 1940 until it was purchased in 1945 by Paul and Mabel Cohen. Dr. Cohen operated his medical practice from the house until his death, and his widow remained on the property until 1989. Ray and Helen Warren, who next owned the home, conducted interior restoration work, and through their efforts, the property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The current owners William Hataala and Kemp Wills, who acquired the property in 2004 and continue its restoration, have graciously opened their home to the Nabb Research Center for its annual fundraising event. The event, "Victorian Springtime in Snow Hill at the Governor John Walter Smith House and Gardens" in Snow Hill, Maryland, takes place Saturday, April 30, 2011. The garden event will include period music, heavy hors d'oeuvres, mint juleps, open bar and a silent auction. Save the date and join us for a rare look into this stately, privately owned home. Tickets will be available in early spring.

**Editor's note: If you are interested in being a Sponsor of the event or have an item you'd like to donate for the silent auction, call us at 410-543-6312 or e-mail rcdhac@salisbury.edu. Your support is greatly appreciated.**

# An Introduction to 'Faces of the Eastern Shore'

By Pat Taylor



*Do you know this couple? Let us know if you can identify this photograph from the Wicomico Historical Society Collection.*

*Rebecca Carolyn Black Polk, 1836-1923.*

*Sarah Disharoon Morris*

*William J. Leonard*

The Nabb Research Center exhibit "Faces of the Eastern Shore" was inspired by a segment that aired on WBOC-TV in 1987 featuring Scorchy Tawes called "Wandering Our Delmarvalous Land." The short clip described some of the characteristics typically found in an Eastern Shoreman. Likewise, the exhibit exemplified those characteristics with the faces of some our local senators, soldiers, farmers, watermen and housewives. The spirit of independence, the effects of a hard-working way of life and the legacy handed down from generation to generation were evident in each face.

One of the faces pictured was that of Col. William J. Leonard, a legislator and comptroller of the State of Maryland in the 19th century. His beautiful wife Isabella Staples White Leonard was pictured with him. During the Civil War, Leonard was imprisoned in the infamous Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia. The Nabb Center has a transcription of his diary dating from August 20, 1862, while he was a captive. After the war, he supported the 1867 formation of Wicomico County and was one of the five citizens who advanced money to the county to build the courthouse.

The well-received exhibit included items from the Nabb Center's collections and items borrowed from community members. We hope to mount a similar exhibit in the future using a variety of new pictures. For those who missed viewing the exhibit, it will be available online at Nabb's Web site in the near future.

**Patricia Taylor, Nabb Board member and long-time volunteer, was the curator of the exhibit.**

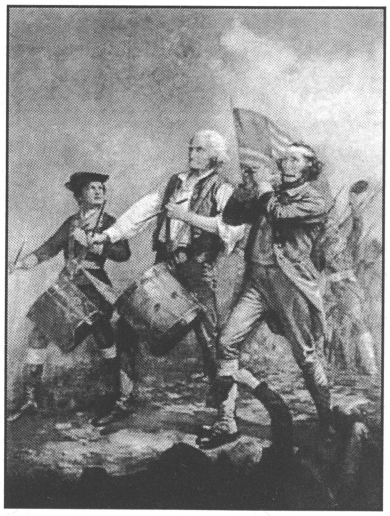
*Isabella Staples White Leonard*

# *Zachariah Campbell: The Patriot Who Saved Salisbury*

By David Ranzan

During the Revolutionary War, the Eastern Shore was a hotbed of insurgency. Alliances were split and officials on the peninsula struggled to keep order while pursuing sovereignty from Great Britain. In the early part of 1777, Tories from Somerset and Worcester counties in Maryland and from Sussex County, Delaware, constructed a plot to raid the military store and vandalize the properties of patriots in the town of Salisbury while troops from British warships anchored in the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays invaded the coast. Unfortunately, a patriot from Dorchester County discovered their plan and sent word for immediate military assistance.

Zachariah Campbell, an immigrant from Glasgow, Scotland, was born about 1740 to James and Mary (Murdoch) Campbell. He arrived in the Chesapeake in 1763, first settling near the Rappahannock River in Virginia and later on the Eastern Shore in Vienna, Maryland, and was employed as a tobacco merchant. In 1765, he married Mary Hicks (1745-1779), daughter of Levin Hicks and Mary (Ennalls) Hooper and neice of Brigadier General Henry Hooper. They had four children: Mary, Isabella, Elizabeth and Levin Hicks. He quickly became a prestigious member of the community, representing Dorchester County in Annapolis as a Maryland Provisional Convention member from 1774 to 1776. On February 10, 1776, he accepted a commission as captain in charge of the Transquaking Company of Militia (formed in Transquaking Hundred, Dorchester County).



On February 1, 1777, Zachariah wrote a letter to his brother James Campbell, captain of the eight-gun schooner Enterprise. Due to the alarming content of his letter, James forwarded it to Samuel Chase, a member of the Maryland Council of Safety and Continental Congress, who presented it before both committees, demanding assistance to quell the uprising.

> Mr Zachariah Campbell in a letter from Vienna, of Ist Inst. writes to his brother Capt. [James] Campbell That the Tories in Sussex, Somerset and Worcester Counties, have been assembling for some days. They have 250 men collected at Parker's Mill [situated on present day Leonard's Pond], about nine miles from Salisbury, and 'tis reported they have three field peices, which they received from the Roebuck [44-gun British frigate], with some men, with intention to seise the Magazine and destroy the property of the Whiggs. Coll. [George] Dashiell is now at Salisbury with what Whiggs he could collect about 130, and is to be reinforced on Monday, by eight companies from this county [Samuel Chase to Maryland Council of Safety, Archives of Maryland, XVI, 122-123]

In response to the threat, the Council of Safety instructed Brigadier General Henry Hooper, who was in charge of all military forces for the lower district on the Eastern Shore, to investigate the allegations of an uprising near Salisbury, "... securing as many of the Leaders of these Banditti as you possibly can." The council also ordered approximately one thousand men under the command of General William Smallwood, composed of Colonel William Buchanan's Regulars, the 2nd Regiment of Virginia Regulars (under the command of Frederick Deams & Samuel Godman), a company of matrosses or soldiers of artillery from Annapolis and General Smallwood's own Regulars to prevent the plundering.

In addition, Chase's report mentioned that "... Captain Nicholson's tender [a supply vessel that accompanies a larger ship] brought accounts that there are three men of war in the bay, one at the Tangiers, one at Smith's point and one in the middle." In response to this information, the patriots maneuvered three of their own ships to the British ships' vicinity, Captain James Campbell's Enterprise, Captain William Patterson's Dolphin and Captain George Cook's Defense.

On February 19, General Smallwood arrived in Salisbury and order was restored in the region. With such a large force marching toward Somerset County to suppress the Loyalists, the Tories melted away across the border into Delaware. For a couple of months, Smallwood established posts in Salisbury, Princess Anne and Snow Hill, and sought out the suspected leaders of the thwarted insurrection. They were Angelo Atkinson, Josephus Beall, Rev. John Bowie, Hamilton Callallo, Dr. Andrew Francis Cheney, Jesse Gray, Dr. John Odell Hart, Levi Lankford, Stoughton Maddox, Thomas Malcom, Thomas Moore, Thomas Pollett Jr., William Pollett and Whittington Turpin. In the initial roundup, which ended on March 3, all were arrested except for Callallo and Moore. Callallo, while hiding on Smith Island, was taken into custody a few weeks later.

Although acts of insurgency continued throughout the war, there were no further incidents recorded of attempted plundering or destruction to Salisbury. After the attempted insurrection, Zachariah Campbell was appointed a Province Naval Officer for the Sixth District of Maryland on March 28, 1777, and assigned to clear all vessels within his district and collect the import and export duties. He would die before 1779.

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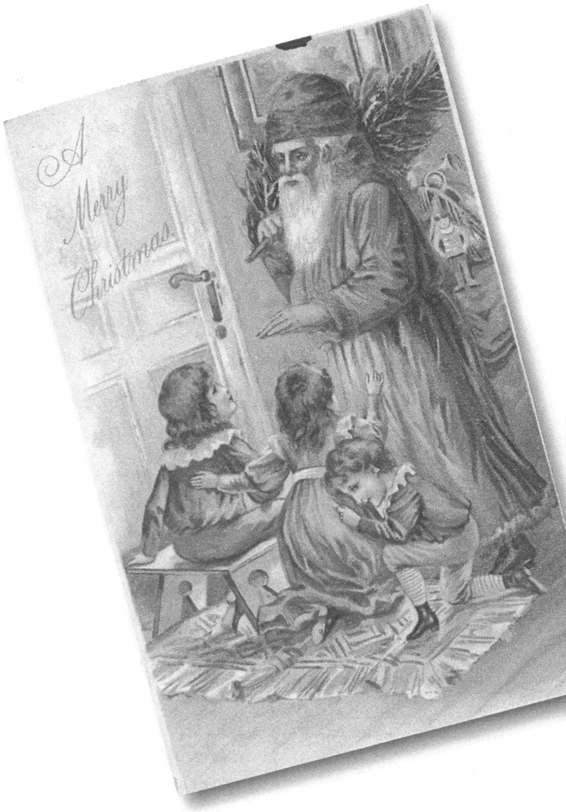
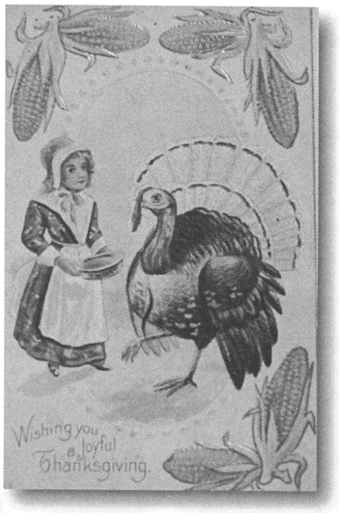
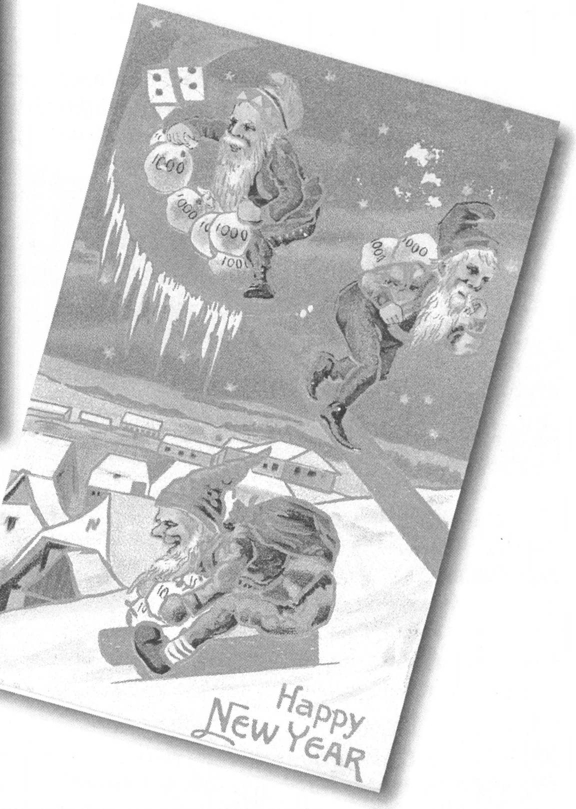
**David Ranzan, archivist at the Nabb Research Center and for Salisbury University, is an avid historian and has transcribed numerous historical records..**

# *Wishing You The Best of the Holiday Season.*


A Merry Christmas


Wishing you a Joyful Thanksgiving.

*Postcards from our upcoming "'Tis the Season" online exhibit.*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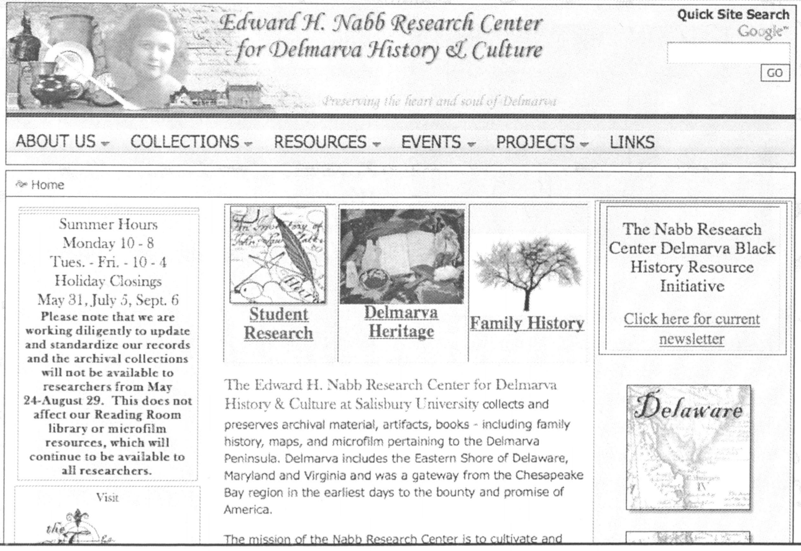
Happy New Year

## *Find information and listings of upcoming events by visiting our Web site at* **http://nabbhistory.salisbury.edu**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Preserving the heart and soul of Delmarva
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COLLECTIONS
RESOURCES
EVENTS
PROJECTS
LINKS
Home
Visit
Delaware

*Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History & Culture*

Summer Hours
Monday 10 - 8
Tues. - Fri. - 10 - 4
Holiday Closings
May 31, July 5, Sept. 6

**Please note that we are working diligently to update and standardize our records and the archival collections will not be available to researchers from May 24-August 29. This does not affect our Reading Room library or microfilm resources, which will continue to be available to all researchers.**

**Student Research**

**Delmarva Heritage**

**Family History**

The Nabb Research Center Delmarva Black History Resource Initiative

Click here for current newsletter

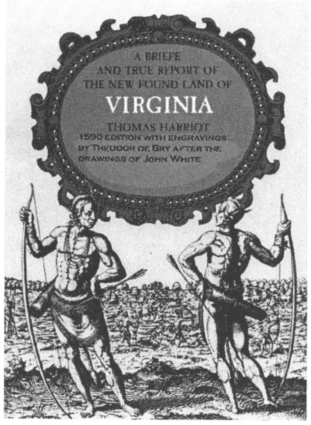
The Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History & Culture at Salisbury University collects and preserves archival material, artifacts, books - including family history, maps, and microfilm pertaining to the Delmarva Peninsula. Delmarva includes the Eastern Shore of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia and was a gateway from the Chesapeake Bay region in the earliest days to the bounty and promise of America.

The mission of the Nabb Research Center is to cultivate and

*Visit our Web site to learn about our constantly-growing collections and resources.*

# *Upcoming Events and Exhibits*

We have an exciting line-up of special events, fascinating lecturers and exhibits featuring our collections. Mark your calendars!


A BRIEFE AND TRUE REPORT OF THE NEW FOUND LAND OF
VIRGINIA
THOMAS HARRIOT
1590 EDITION WITH ENGRAVINGS BY THEODOR DE BRY AFTER THE DRAWINGS OF JOHN WHITE

### ***Exploration and First Contact: Delmarva, 1609-1700***

*Exhibit, Nabb Center Gallery*
*Through May 20*
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1-4 p.m. or by appointment
The first contact with Europeans brought profound change for Native Americans and the landscape in which they lived. Maps, artifacts and documents reveal the early contact period of exploration by Europeans and illustrate their subsequent domination of the Eastern Shore.

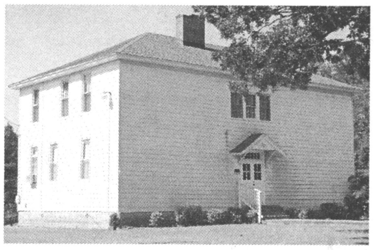
### ***'Tis the Season: Vintage Postcards in American Memory Online exhibit:***

http://nabbhistory.salisbury.edu/archives/exhibits/digitalexhibits.asp
*January 10-December 31*
This online exhibit features vintage late-Victorian period Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year holiday postcards from the Nabb Center's collection that were featured in a recent Nabb Center Gallery exhibit.

### ***Families of Old Somerset: The Seaside Settlement Panel Discussion, Nabb Research Center***

*Saturday, January 22, 1 p.m.*
Join us in the first of a series of roundtable discussions about the early families of Old Somerset County, Maryland. Focusing on the area known as the "Seaside" and including Bogerternorton Hundred, this discussion will be led by local family historians who have valuable insights about the early families and their settlement patterns. Come learn and share! Limited seating.

### ***The Families of San Domingo, Wicomico County Panel Discussion, Nabb Center Gallery***



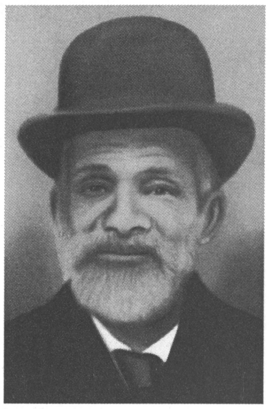
*Thursday, February 3, 7 p.m.*
Rudolph Stanley and Newell Quinton, both with family ties to San Domingo, discuss that rural community, founded by free blacks in the early 1800s, and its families. Limited seating.

### ***An Introduction to Tyasksin Book Signing, Nabb Center Gallery***

*Saturday, February 12, 2-4 p.m.*
The scenic and historic village of Tyaskin, Maryland, is the subject of researcher and writer Barbara Marhoefer's new book *Tyaskin, Maryland, In Photos and Documents.* Marhoefer will detail her journey in writing this much-needed monograph of an Eastern Shore maritime village.

### ***The Eastern Shore Through the Eye of the Photographer Exhibit, Nabb Center Gallery***

*February 14-June 30*
*Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1-4 p.m. or by appointment*
A reprisal of the national-award winning exhibit of images of the Eastern Shore shot by its most famous photographer, Orlando Wootten, whose extensive collection is among the Nabb Center's holdings. Enhanced with images not previously shown.

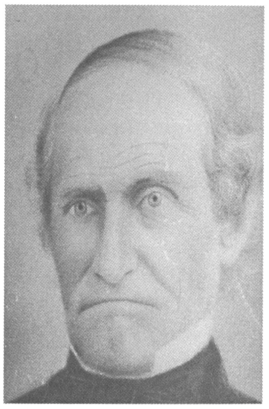


### ***Eastern Shore African-Americans in the Civil War Panel Discussion, Nabb Center Gallery***

*Wednesday, March 9, 7 p.m.*
Learn about the roles local African Americans played in the Civil War and its aftermath. Talk to descendants of soldiers who joined the "United States Colored Troops" during the war or became "Buffalo Soldiers" following it. Limited seating.

### ***Faces of the Eastern Shore Online Exhibit:***

http://nabbhistory.salisbury.edu/archives/exhibits/digitalexhibits.asp
*Begins February 22*



This popular exhibit of photographs of people of the Eastern Shore during the past century and a half is now available for online viewing. Images of individuals from many walks of life are seen in this exhibit showcasing watermen, politicians, soldiers, housewives and farmers. Viewers will note the many family connections among the people depicted. A continuum of photographs shows physical characteristics passed from one generation to the next.

### ***Portrait of an Eastern Shore Woman Online Exhibit:***

http://nabbhistory.salisbury.edu/archives/exhibits/digitalexhibits.asp
*Begins March 1*
In recognition of Women's History Month, this exhibit showcases 19th century women of Delmarva, placing them in the context of home and hearth, and showing the physical pain and heartache regularly faced by women of the time. Artifacts, photographs and documents highlight the exhibit.

### *African-American Family History Workshop, Nabb Center Gallery*

***Kimberly Conway Dumpson, Esq.***
*Saturday, April 2, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.*
A workshop on the basics of genealogy and the unique challenges of researching African-American family histories will be led by Dumpson using examples of source materials from the Nabb Research Center and from her own family history. Limited seating. Call 410-543-6312 for reservation.

### *In the Wake of John Smith: Indigenous Cultural Landscapes of the Eastern Shore*

### *Wilcomb Washburn Distinguished Lecture in American History*

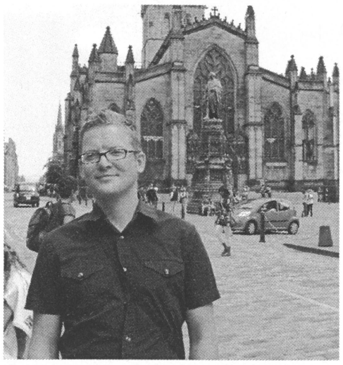
***Prof. Virginia R. Busby***
*Guerrerri Center,*
*Wicomico Room*
*Wednesday, April 13, 7 p.m.*
John Smith and his Native American encounters figure prominently in recent historical and cultural commemorations. But what happened after 1607? Does the name "Tundotank" resonate with your understanding of the history of Salisbury? Did you know there were at least 11 Indian reservations on the Eastern Shore in Colonial times? Archaeological and historical evidence along with information from descendant communities provides a rich tapestry of information for understanding native life on the Shore over a 200-year span post-John Smith. In recognition of Native American History Month, Busby will present fascinating stories of native communities on the Shore and point to ways modern communities can appreciate and experience this history and benefit from the preservation of the sites associated with this history.

### *Nabb Research Center Annual Fundraising Event Victorian Springtime in Snow Hill at the Governor John Walter Smith House*

*Saturday, April 30, 4-7 p.m.*
Join us in historic Snow Hill, Maryland, for an elegant evening of fabulous food, period music, potent potables (open bar and mint juleps) and silent auction at the Governor John Walter Smith House (circa 1889), an outstanding example of Victorian Queen Anne architecture. Tickets available in early spring 2011. Call 410-543-6312 for information.

### *Families of Old Somerset: The Bayside Settlement*

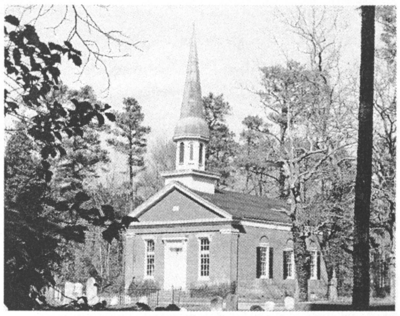
*Panel Discussion, Nabb Research Center*
*Saturday, May 14, 1 p.m.*
Join us in the second of a series of roundtable discussions about the early families of Old Somerset County, Maryland. Focusing on the "Bayside" and including Manokin Hundred, this discussion will be led by local family historians who have valuable insights about the early families and their settlement patterns. Come, learn and share! Limited seating.



### *Trans-Atlantic Networks: Scottish Immigrants in the 19th Century*

*Lecture, Nabb Center Gallery*
*Thursday, June 9, 7 p.m.*
James Jensen, Ph.D. student at the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, will examine everyday networks as a major component of household strategies for survival amongst Scottish immigrants to North America. Discussions will touch upon the various waves of Scottish emigrants and how networks associated with place and religious communities helped them reach both short-term and long-term goals. Limited seating.

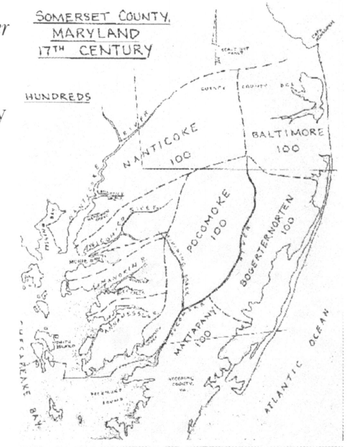
### *Taylors Island: Unraveling the History of the Lane Church Cemetery*



*Lecture, Nabb Center Gallery*
*Wednesday, June 15, 7 p.m.*
Local historian Linda Duyer will speak on efforts to learn more about an African-American cemetery on Taylors Island located adjacent to two historic churches: Lane Methodist Church and Bethlehem Methodist Episcopal Church. With gravesites dating to the early 1800s, burials include families prominent in the history of Dorchester County. Limited seating.

### *Families of Old Somerset: Maryland's Lost Territory – Sussex County*

*Panel Discussion, Nabb Research Center*
*Saturday, July 16, 1 p.m.*
Join us in the third of a series of roundtable discussions about the early families of Old Somerset County, Maryland. Focusing on the territory now part of Sussex County, Delaware, this discussion will be led by local family historians who have valuable insights about the early families. Come, learn and share! Limited seating.

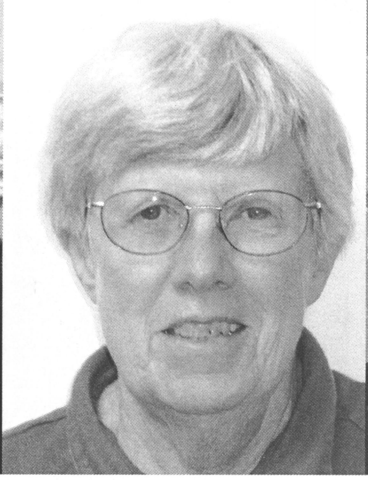


# Volunteer Corner

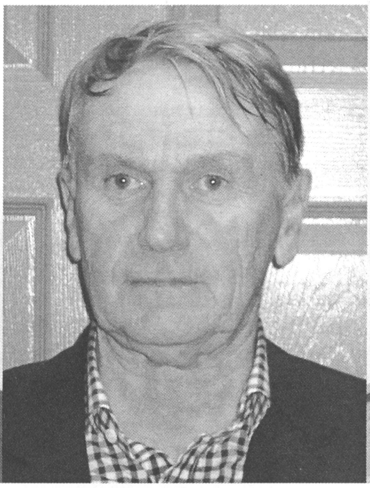
Thank you to our volunteers, who collectively provide the Nabb Center with critical support including scanning, archival work, curating, docenting, research and research assistance, editing, staffing, outreach, and public programming. Without their dedication and hard work, much of what we do would not be possible.

*Carolyn Adkins*

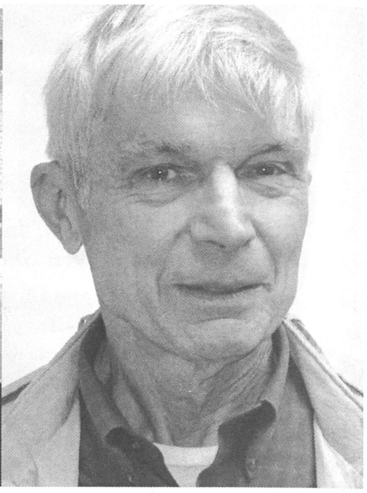
*Page Austin*



*Vaughn Baker*



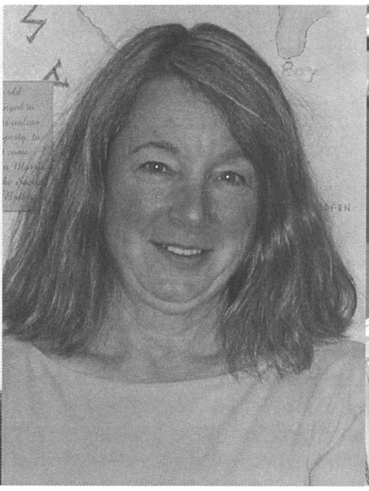
*Joe Ballou*



*Polly Batchelder*

*Jefferson Boyer*

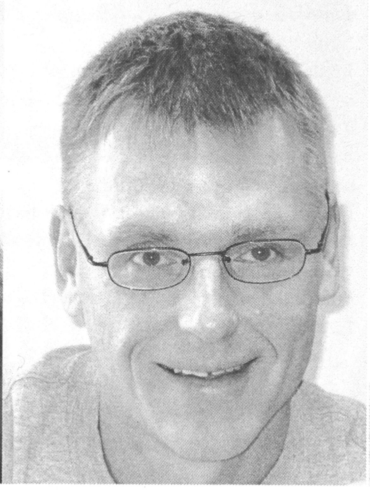
*Heather Burnham*



*Bill Collison*

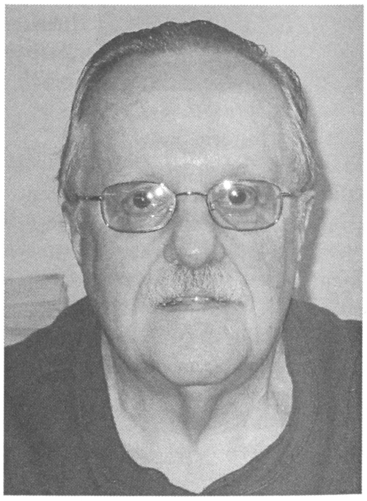
*Linda Duyer*

*Mike Hitch*

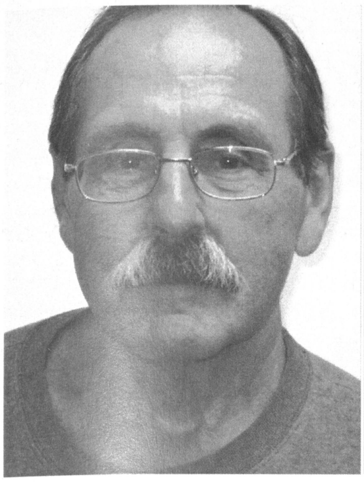


*Catherine Hudson*

*Paul Marshner*



*Walter Matern*



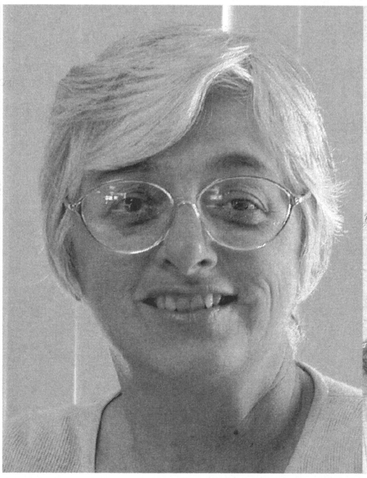
*Kathy McIntyre*

*L. Paul Morris III*

*Dan Parsons*

*Frances Sistrunk*

*Pat Taylor*

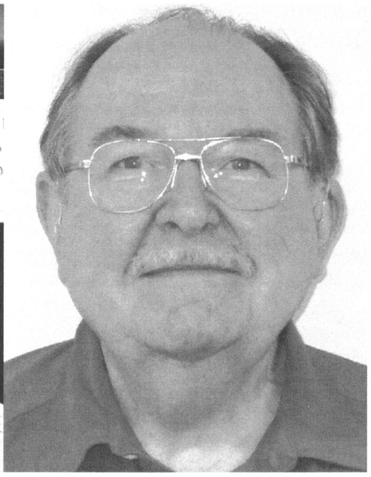


*Beth Trice*

*Barbara Welsh*

*Jane West*

*Lloyd Whitehead*



**Not Pictured:**
*Georgann Mastin*